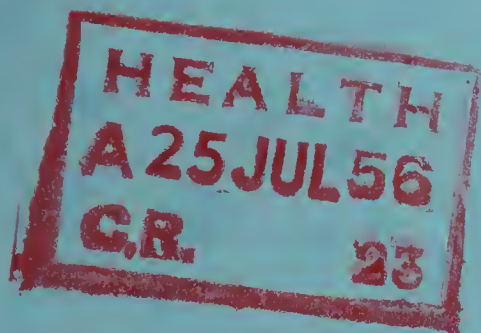


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BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1955



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introduction 	3
Staff 	5
Section A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA 	6
Section B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA 	18
Section C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA ...	21
Section D. HOUSING 	43
Section E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD ...	48
Section F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES ...	64
Section G. PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ...	68

ST. MARYCHURCH TOWN HALL,
TORQUAY.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and to the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Torquay.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955, which is detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

The year under review is the tenth consecutive complete calendar year since the end of the Second World War; and it therefore seems opportune and appropriate to compare some of the vital statistics of this period, 1946-55, inclusive, with those of the ten complete years, 1929-38, inclusive, immediately preceding the war. A more detailed account is given in the body of this report, but in general it can be said that the falling trend of the total mortality ratio and of the infant mortality rate has remained satisfactory in relation to the national trend; although after the war, while the ratios are appreciably lower, the decline is slower, and the Borough rates are closer to the national figures than formerly. An analysis of the ages at which death occurs shows that there has been a greater improvement in the mortality among the younger age-groups, in which the chief causes of death have yielded more readily to preventive measures than have the degenerative processes of ageing in later life. The comparison of notifications shows the abolition of diphtheria and a considerable decline in most of the other diseases which were notifiable both before and after the war.

During the year, measles was epidemic, but this disease is much less serious than formerly, and complicated cases were infrequent; poliomyelitis was more prevalent throughout the country generally, but the incidence in the Borough remained low. A small outbreak of food poisoning is a reminder that safety depends on adequate facilities and on the strictest observance of personal hygiene and careful work by everyone in the trade; and these factors are of paramount importance in a resort with so many catering establishments.

The substantial post-war programme of new council houses has now been completed, and the number of all council dwellings (15 per cent.) in relation to the total residential properties in the town shows a very creditable proportion and record of work. The list of applicants for council tenancies is now comparatively small and should be virtually eliminated with the usual removal of existing tenants over a reasonable period of time. The greater difficulty still remains of reconditioning the older sub-standard properties

and of providing the necessary amenities in each dwelling; up to the present the applications for improvement grants seem to have been limited to owner-occupiers, and the solution of the much larger and more complicated problem of tenanted property is awaited with increasing anxiety.

The general routine of the Department has continued with quiet efficiency, although there was delay in replacing one of the sanitary inspectors. It became quickly apparent there is now great difficulty in obtaining experienced sanitary inspectors; and this is a matter of some concern, because during the past century an efficient public health service has been built up, which is largely dependent on the important regular routine district work of these inspectors. And there will be inevitable risk to the community if this is in any way curtailed or allowed to decline in standard.

In conclusion, it is with appreciation that I acknowledge the encouraging support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and also the co-operation of the medical profession in the association and interchange of the daily round and common task. To the Staff is due great credit for their continued zeal and high quality of work, any success in which is measured only by the forgetfulness of the public.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. V. A. SIMPSON.

STAFF

(a) Medical

Medical Officer of Health
(and *Medical Officer, Torquay Isolation Hospital*) :

J. V. A. SIMPSON,

M.D.LOND., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.CAMB.

(b) Sanitary

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

G. J. LOVELESS, T.D., F.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors :

A. THOMPSON, C.R.S.I.

J. F. H. SMITH, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I., Dip. R.I.P.H.H.,
Cert. Lab. Technique, Exeter.

E. V. ROBERTS, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

B. A. F. IRWIN, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

(c) Other

Public Analyst :

*T. TICKLE, B.SC., F.I.C.

Chief Clerk :

S. E. R. AUTHERS

Clerks :

E. C. DOBLE

B. L. BROWN

Manager of Abattoir :

G. A. AYRES.

Attendant at Abattoir :

R. BROWN.

Rodent Operatives :

W. LEE.

J. BORLACE.

Disinfecter and Van Driver :

D. J. SMITH

* Part Time

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,244
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,270
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,221
Rateable value (end of 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£615,536
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,420

SOCIAL CONDITIONS,

including the chief industries carried on in the Area and the extent of Unemployment.

Torquay is now a busy holiday resort as well as a residential town; and, with the increase in the number of persons receiving holidays with pay, the summer season is becoming increasingly busy. This has an effect on unemployment which has always shown a seasonal variation, which before the war ranged from a minimum of about 800 to a maximum of 1,800.

At the end of the war the number of unemployed was the lowest recorded with a total of 148 in 1945: since then the number has risen gradually each year to reach a maximum of 1,405 in 1953, after which there has been a decline to 1,291 in 1954 and 1,006 in 1955; and the following shows the extent of unemployment in 1955:

MAXIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED							
			<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
January, 1955	...	...	618	318	34	36	1,006
MINIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED							
August, 1955	...	...	102	17	16	6	141

Seaside resorts have a difficult problem in their unemployment, which will not be solved unless there is other seasonal work for the winter only, to absorb the summer employees rendered redundant after the holiday season.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1955

which relate to the net Births and Deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	10.32
Stillbirth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	31.72
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	16.55
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):			
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	0.00
Death-rate of infants under one year of age:			
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	25.05
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	...	...	24.29
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	40.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	122
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	0

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required special comment.

During the year there has been nothing to report.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the resident population at the middle of 1955 is 50,270; and this figure is used in calculating the appropriate statistical returns.

Births.

The number of live births registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 519, of which 245 were male and 274 female; there were 494 legitimate and 25 illegitimate births. There were 17 stillbirths, 17 legitimate and 0 illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 10.32 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.0 for England and Wales; and the stillbirth-rate was 0.34 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 0.36. The stillbirth-rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths was 31.72 compared with 23.1 for England and Wales.

The proportion of illegitimate to total births in Torquay (after correction for transfers) was 4.86 per cent. in 1955; this figure had risen progressively from 6.4 per cent. in 1939 to a maximum of 17.7 per cent. in 1945, subsequently falling, and in 1950 returning to the pre-war level.

A comparability factor, to make adjustment for the age and sex distribution of the town, has this year been prepared by the Registrar-General for correcting the birth-rate; the factor is 1.11 and after multiplying the crude rate by this a corrected birth-rate of 11.46 is obtained.

Marriages.

The marriage rate was 5.4 per 1,000 population compared with 4.9 in 1954, 5.3 in 1953, 5.1 in 1952 and 5.9 in 1951.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 832, of which 371 were males and 461 were females.

The crude death-rate was 16.55 per 1,000 population compared with 16.30 in 1954; the death-rate in 1955 for England and Wales was 11.7.

In order to make adjustment for the age and sex distribution of Torquay, with its greater proportion of older people, the Registrar-General supplies an area comparability factor (A.C.F.) with which to multiply the crude death-rate and so obtain an adjusted death-rate. The A.C.F. for Torquay is 0.67 and the adjusted death-rate is therefore 11.09.

The chief causes of death were as usual for Torquay: Heart Disease, 272; Cancer, 122; and Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 163; which between them are responsible for more than half of the total deaths.

The death-rate from cancer of the lung was 458 per million population in Torquay compared with a rate of 389 in England and Wales; and the death-rates from other forms of cancer were 2,100 per million population in Torquay and 1,667 in England and Wales.

The death-rates from Tuberculosis of the lung were 280 per million population in Torquay and 131 in England and Wales; and the rates for non-respiratory tuberculosis were 20 per million in Torquay and 15 in England and Wales.

The local figures have the disadvantage inherent in being calculated from comparatively small numbers.

The causes of death are given in the accompanying Table A, supplied by the Registrar-General.

Table B is also included showing the age-distribution of total deaths, together with the deaths from the different causes: this table is compiled from the returns of the Local Registrar, and differs slightly from the list supplied by the Registrar-General who frequently obtains subsequent further information to assist in the more accurate classification.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate was 25.05 per 1,000 total live births, compared with a rate of 24.9 for England and Wales; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 24.29,

and the death-rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births was 40.0. The infant mortality rate in Torquay tends to fluctuate owing to the comparatively small numbers upon which it is calculated: thus the figures for the preceding five years, 1950-54, inclusive, were 23, 26, 31, 16, 13.

The actual number of deaths in 1955 of infants under 1 year of age was 13 (9 of these being under 4 weeks) and in 1954 was 13 (11 being under 4 weeks).

There was no maternal death during the year; the number of maternal deaths in each of the preceding five years, 1950-54, was 1, 0, 0, 1, 0.

The total maternal mortality for England and Wales was 0.64 per 1,000 total live- and still-births.

TABLE A

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1955						Males	Females
All Causes						371	461
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	8	6
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	1
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	7	11
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	19	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	13
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	38	33
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	56	107
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	63	60
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	12	16
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	43	78
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	24	38
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	5
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	14	16
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	10	10
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	8	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	8	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	5
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	8	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	29	34
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	2	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	6	7
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Total						8	5
Legitimate						7	5
Illegitimate						1	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks { Total						6	3
Legitimate						5	3
Illegitimate						1	—
Stillbirths ... { Total						9	8
Legitimate						9	8
Illegitimate						—	—

TABLE B.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955 (Per Local Registrar).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.											
	All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and over
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	14	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	3	3	1
2. Tuberculosis other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
3. Syphilitic disease	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	11	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	5	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	71	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	16	23	23
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
16. Diabetes	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	169	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	15	42	105
18. Coronary disease, angina	123	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	23	48	49
19. Hypertension with heart disease	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	22
20. Other heart disease	130	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	9	26	91
21. Other circulatory disease	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	9	16
22. Influenza	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	6
23. Pneumonia	34	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	23
24. Bronchitis	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	11
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	12	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	67	9	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	7	13	32
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
34. All other accidents	13	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	7
35. Suicide	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	832	9	4	-	3	1	7	16	42	117	213	420

A COMPARISON: 1929-38 and 1946-55

With the completion of the tenth consecutive calendar year since the Second World War, it seems opportune to compare some of the statistical returns between the post-war decade and the ten complete calendar years immediately preceding the war.

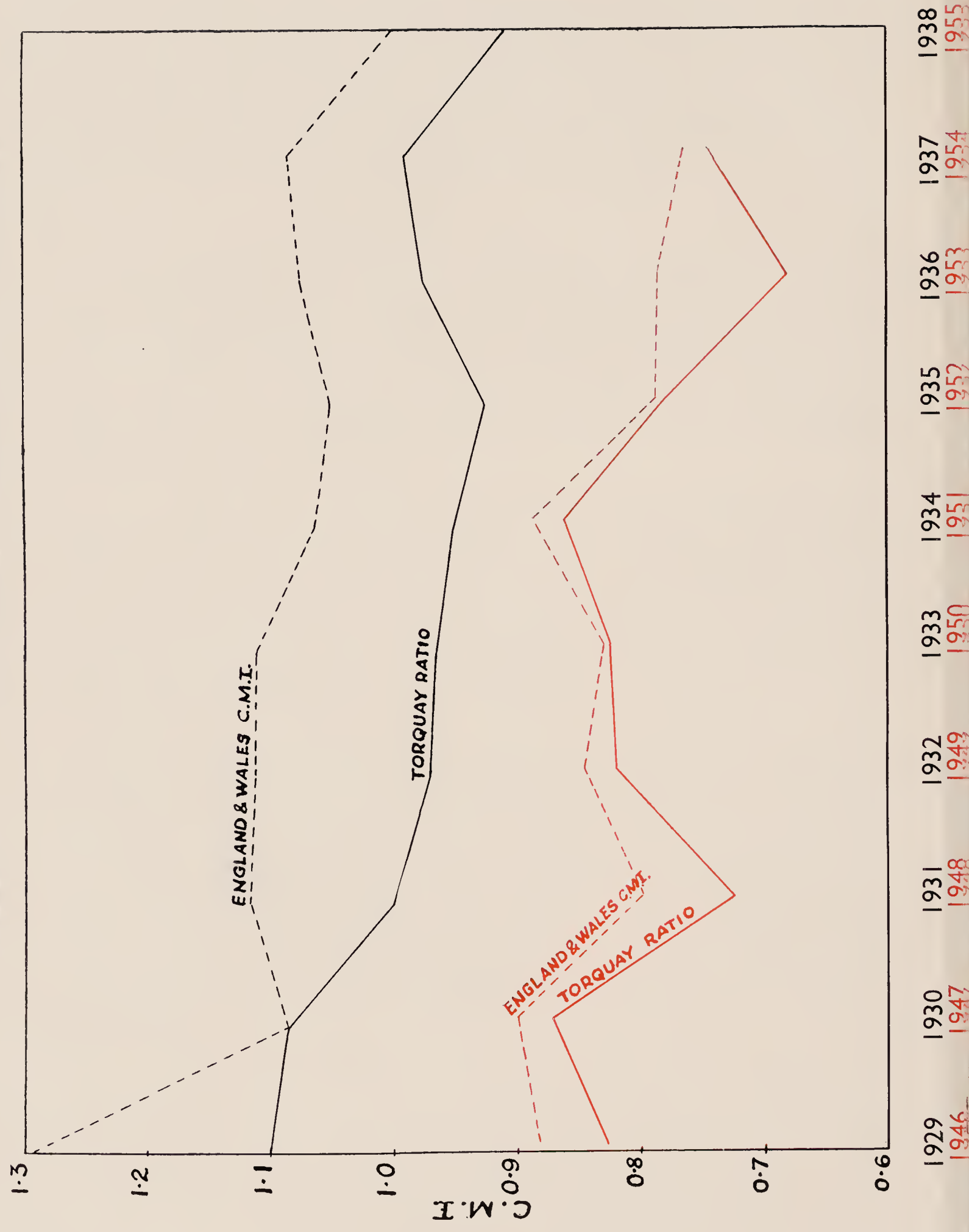
GENERAL MORTALITY TRENDS

Comparison of the adjusted death-rates of an area with one another and with the national rate is valid only within the same year. If it is desired to compare the rates over a number of years, then standardised time comparisons can be constructed for a local area to show the extent to which the pace and direction of its death-rate (after adjustments for differences between its age and sex composition and that of England and Wales) differ from the trend of the national death-rate.

An index may be formed for each year by multiplying the ratio of the local adjusted death-rate to the national rate by the national comparative mortality index. The comparative mortality index represents the ratio between the adjusted death-rate of the year in question and of a base year, each calculated by weighting the death-rates for the various sex-age groups by the mean of the corresponding proportions of population living in the two years. The national index for the year 1938 is taken as unity.

The accompanying Table C and Chart I show both local ratios and the national comparative mortality indices for the two decades. It will be seen that the Torquay figures have been below, and have followed the same downward trend as, the indices for England and Wales, the rate of the fall being somewhat less rapid in the post-war period; and in this period the local figures are, apart from one year, less favourably placed, being closer to the national indices than formerly. The Torquay ratio fell from 1.009 in 1929 to 0.910 in 1938, and from 0.827 in 1949 to 0.765 in 1954. (The comparative mortality index for 1955 is not yet obtainable from the Registrar-General.)

CHART I GENERAL MORTALITY TRENDS



GENERAL MORTALITY TRENDS

TABLE C

Year	Torquay Adjusted Death- Rate	England & Wales Death- Rate	Ratio of Adjusted Local Death- Rate to National Rate	England & Wales C.M.I. (1938 as base=unity)	Torquay Ratio Adjusted to National Mortality Trend
1929	11.4	13.4	0.851	1.292	1.099
1930	11.4	11.4	1.000	1.084	1.084
1931	10.6	12.3	0.861	1.154	0.994
1932	10.4	12.0	0.867	1.119	0.969
1933	10.5	12.3	0.854	1.132	0.967
1934	10.5	11.8	0.890	1.068	0.950
1935	10.3	11.7	0.880	1.051	0.925
1936	11.0	12.1	0.910	1.073	0.976
1937	11.3	12.4	0.910	1.086	0.988
1938	10.5	11.6	0.910	1.000	0.910
1946	10.8	11.5	0.939	0.881	0.827
1947	11.6	12.0	0.967	0.906	0.876
1948	9.8	10.8	0.907	0.801	0.727
1949	11.4	11.7	0.969	0.856	0.829
1950	11.5	11.6	0.991	0.841	0.833
1951	12.1	12.5	0.968	0.901	0.872
1952	11.2	11.3	0.991	0.806	0.799
1953	9.9	11.4	0.868	0.807	0.701
1954	10.9	11.3	0.969	0.789	0.765
1955	11.1	11.7	0.949	(Not yet available)	(Not yet available)

Comparison of ages at death.

The accompanying Table D gives the death-rate per 1,000 population in the differing age-groups for the pre-war and post-war periods; the post-war rate is also expressed as a percentage of the pre-war figure. A review shows that there has been a greater reduction in the mortality of children and young adults; for in the earlier years of life the chief causes of death in the past were infectious conditions, which have yielded more readily to preventive measures than have the degenerative processes of ageing.

The improvement in mortality rates is very marked up to 34 years, and in the next two age-groups it is also appreciable. Between the ages of 45-64 years cancer and the degenerate causes begin to make their effect increasingly felt; and after the age of 65, heart disease (including coronary thrombosis, the incidence of which has risen considerably) and intra-cranial vascular lesions predominate. The reduction in the death-rate is slight and generally less significant above the age of 55 years.

It is also observed that both before and after the war in Torquay, approximately two-thirds of the total deaths occurred after the age of 65; but before 1938 about one-third of the total deaths took place after the age of 75 years, whereas in the post-war period this proportion has risen to one-half. It illustrates the increasing longevity of the population, especially of women.

TABLE D

AGE-GROUP	0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	55-64 yrs.	65-74 yrs.	75-84 yrs.	85 & over
Pre-war death-rate per 1,000 population in age-group ...	11.7	1.5	2.0	2.9	3.5	8.6	16.0	40.5	105.9	284.3
Post-war death-rate per 1,000 population in age-group ...	4.7	0.5	0.9	1.5	2.2	5.8	15.3	34.5	91.0	242.7
Post-war rate expressed as percentage of pre-war rate ...	40	33	45	50	62	67	95	87	90	92

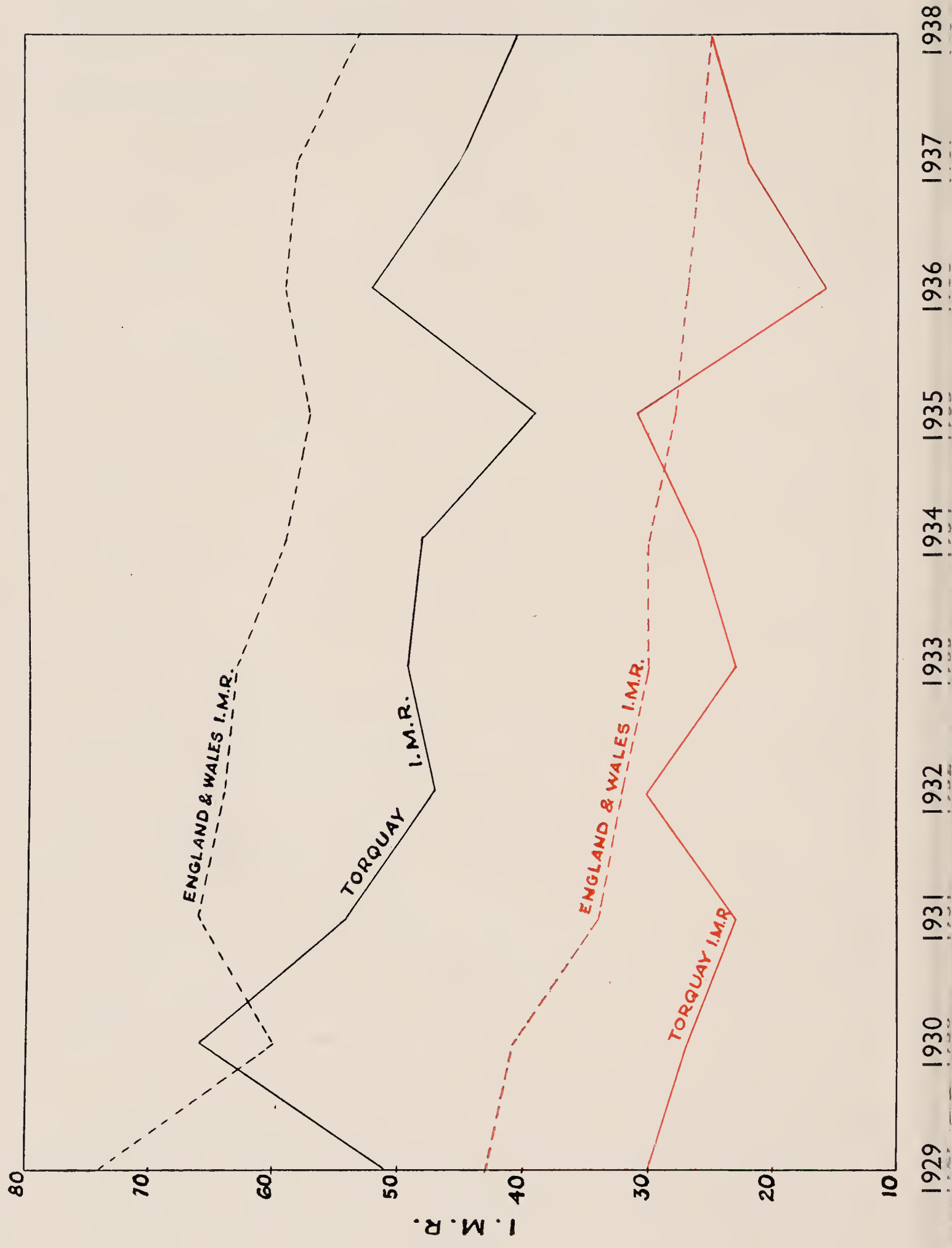
Deaths in Institutions.

Another interesting fact has emerged from studying the death returns, from which it seemed that in the post-war period there has been a considerable increase in the number of institutional deaths, i.e. deaths occurring in hospitals and nursing homes within the Borough; and an analysis of the statistics confirms this. In the period 1929-38, the number of institutional deaths averaged 22 per cent. of the total, whereas since the war, 1946-55, this figure has risen to 39 per cent. of the total deaths. Probably one of the reasons is the almost complete disappearance of adequate domestic and other help at home, so that when illness becomes severe the patient must be moved to a hospital or nursing home in order to get the necessary care and treatment.

INFANT MORTALITY

In connexion with infant mortality rates, owing to the small number of deaths, it is necessary to apply a test of statistical significance before making a deduction from differences in the rate; it is usual to regard deviations of less than twice the standard error as merely due to chance (the standard error in this case being the rate divided by the square root of the number of deaths). Calculations show that in 1929, 1935, 1946 and 1947 the Torquay rate was significantly low, compared with the rate for England and Wales, but that in the remaining years the fluctuations were due mainly to chance variations.

CHART II INFANT MORTALITY



The accompanying Table E and Chart II show the local and national infant mortality rates: and it is seen that the local rate shows the same downward trend as the rate for England and Wales, although the speed of the decline is becoming less marked in the post-war period. With the number of infant deaths now below 20 the difficulties inherent in such small numbers become more apparent; but the infant mortality rate has always been recognised as a sensitive index and the low local rate maintained throughout the period reflects very satisfactory conditions in the Borough.

TABLE E
INFANT MORTALITY

Year	Torquay Deaths under 1 year	Infant Mortality Rates	
		Torquay	England & Wales
1929	27	51	74
1930	37	66	60
1931	32	54	66
1932	25	47	64
1933	26	49	63
1934	24	48	59
1935	21	39	57
1936	28	52	59
1937	23	45	58
1938	20	40	53
1946	24	30	43
1947	23	27	41
1948	16	23	34
1949	20	30	32
1950	14	23	30
1951	16	26	30
1952	19	31	28
1953	9	16	27
1954	13	22	26
1955	13	25	25

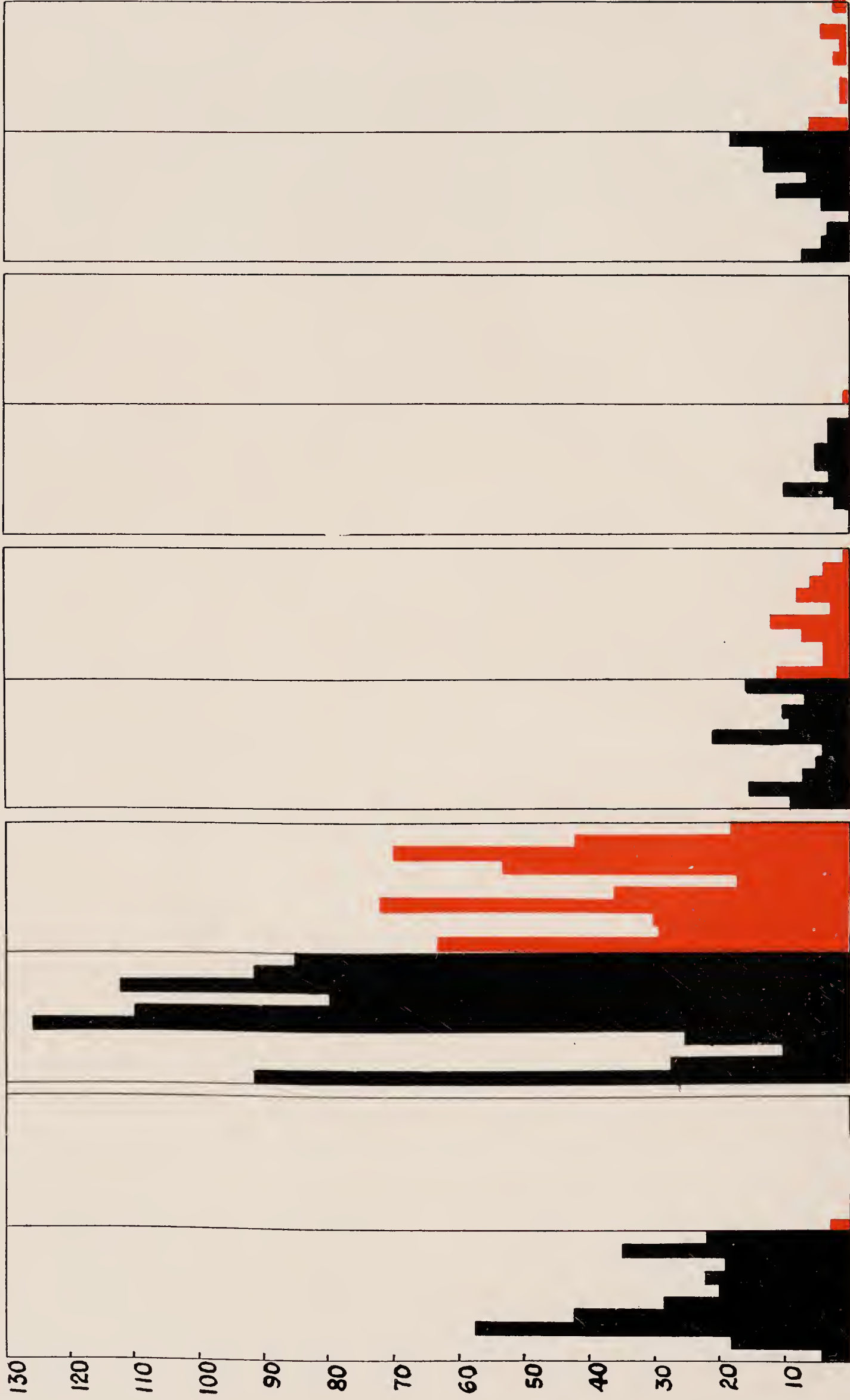
NOTIFICATIONS

The accompanying Charts III and IV and Table F show the number of notifications of most of the comparable notifiable diseases, i.e. those which were notifiable during both the decades under review. The actual incidence of each disease is given, that is the number of notifications, in preference to the rate per 1,000 population, owing to the small numbers in some diseases; although the method adopted is slightly less favourable to the post-war period when the incidence of infections affected a larger population, which was increased by approximately 6,000 between the two decades.

The figures show the abolition of diphtheria, the increasing rarity of sporadic cases of enteric fever, and a striking decline in all the other diseases except poliomyelitis and pneumonia. In the case of tuberculosis, the reduction is all the more noteworthy; because better facilities, such as mass radiography, etc., have resulted in a more complete ascertainment of cases which would tend to keep up the number of notifications.

CHART III NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DIPHTHERIA SCARLET FEVER ERYSIPELAS ENTERIC FEVER PUERPERAL PYREXIA



1929-1938 1946-1955 1929-1938 1946-1955 1929-1938 1946-1955

CHART IV NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

OPHTHALMIA
NEONATORUM

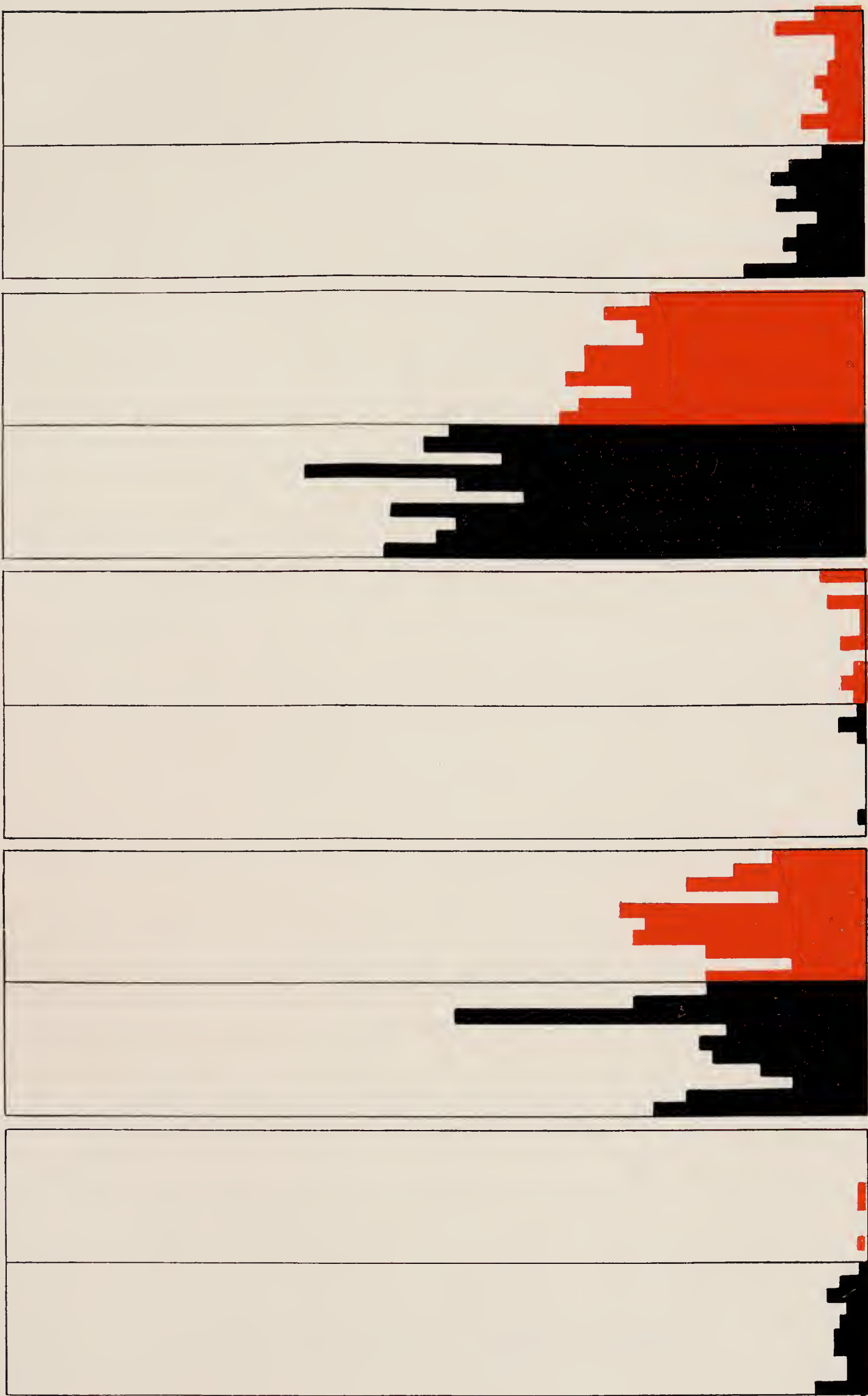
PNEUMONIA

POLIOMYELITIS

PULMONARY

TUBERCULOSIS

NON-PULMONARY



1929-1938 1946-1955 1929-1938 1946-1955 1929-1938 1946-1955 1929-1938 1946-1955 1929-1938 1946-1955

TABLE F NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Year	Diph- theria	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthal- mia Neo- natorum	Pneu- monia	Polio- myelitis	Tuber- culosis (Pul- monary)	Tuber- culosis (Non-Pul- monary)
1929	4	91	9	—	7	8	32	—	72	18
1930	18	27	15	—	4	3	27	1	64	10
1931	57	10	7	2	3	3	11	—	61	12
1932	42	25	5	10	—	5	16	—	71	10
1933	28	125	4	3	4	5	23	—	51	7
1934	20	110	21	5	11	4	25	—	61	13
1935	22	79	9	5	6	3	21	—	84	10
1936	19	112	10	3	13	6	62	1	54	14
1937	35	91	7	3	13	4	35	4	66	11
1938	22	85	16	—	18	1	24	1	62	6
1946	3	63	11	1	6	—	24	2	46	5
1947	—	29	4	—	—	1	11	4	43	9
1948	—	30	4	—	1	—	24	2	35	5
1949	—	72	7	—	1	—	35	—	45	6
1950	—	36	12	—	—	1	33	4	42	7
1951	—	17	3	—	2	1	37	1	42	5
1952	—	53	8	—	1	—	13	1	33	4
1953	—	70	6	—	4	—	27	6	34	4
1954	—	42	4	—	—	—	20	—	39	13
1955	—	18	1	—	2	—	14	7	32	7

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (i) *Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority, including their duties, are incorporated in the beginning of the Report.*

After some delays, a post of a District Sanitary Inspector, which had become vacant in October, 1954, was filled by the appointment of Mr. B. A. F. Irwin, District Sanitary Inspector, City of Peterborough, who took up his duties on the 21st February, 1955.

(ii) *Committees.*

The list of Committees which are concerned with matters of Public Health are:

Public Health Committee.

Housing Committee.

2. *Nursing Homes.*

One Nursing Home was discontinued during the year, and the following is a summary of the Nursing Homes at the end of December:

Number of Homes on the Register	...	10
Number of Maternity Beds	... ..	5
Number of other Beds	... ..	98

3. *National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47.*

If action has been taken under this Section, a brief note of the circumstances of each case is requested. The note should include information as to the reason for the Council's action, period named in the Order of the Court, the type of accommodation to which the person was removed, the ultimate result of the Council's action and any other information on the case which it is considered might be of interest.

This Section relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who

(a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions: and

(b) are unable to devote to themselves *and* are not receiving from other persons proper care or attention:

and makes the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts the authorities for dealing with such cases.

To effect the removal the Medical Officer of Health for the district must certify in writing to the Council that he is satisfied, after thorough enquiry and consideration, that in the interest of any such person, or for preventing injury to health, or serious nuisance to other persons, it is necessary to remove any such person from the premises in which he is residing; and the local authority may then apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order under the Section. Before an application can be made, seven clear days' notice must be given to the person concerned or to some person in charge of him, and to the persons managing the premises to which the removal is sought to be made.

When the application is made, it must be supported by all evidence of the allegations in the certificate; and the Court, if satisfied, may order the removal of the person concerned, by such officer of the local authority as may be specified, to a suitable hospital and may authorise the detention of the person concerned for a period not exceeding three months, subject to extension on further application. The person concerned by the Order, or any persons on his behalf, may apply to the Court at the expiration of six weeks from the making of the Order for its revocation.

On 1st September, 1951, an Amending Act came into force giving Local Authorities powers to deal expeditiously with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people. Where the Medical Officer of Health and another registered Medical Practitioner certify that, in the case of a person to whom Section 47 of the 1948 Act applies, an application (that he should be removed without delay) may be made to the appropriate Court or to a single Justice, without giving the seven clear days' notice required by the main Act. The application may be made by the Local Authority, or by the Medical Officer of Health where the Authority authorises him to make application, in cases to which the Amending Act applies. The order is made for a period not exceeding 3 weeks, and any further application extending this period has to be in accordance with the main provisions of the 1948 Act.

Your Medical Officer is authorised to make application in any case to which the Amending Act applies.

During the year it was not necessary to take action under either Act.

4. National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 50.

Under Section 50 of this Act it is the duty of the Local Authority to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in the area, in any case where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been made or are being made.

The Authority may receive from the estate, if any, of the deceased person or from any person who for the purposes of this Act was liable to maintain the deceased person immediately before his death, expenses incurred and not reimbursed under the National Insurance Act.

During the year, 8 burials were carried out under this section, compared with 6 in 1954, 9 in 1953, 7 in 1952, and 16 in 1951.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA1. *Water.*

In this report full details are given in connexion with the water supply, and the Borough Water Engineer, Mr. W. F. White, M.I.W.E., has kindly supplied the following information.

(i) *Whether the water supply has been satisfactory (a) in quality; (b) in quantity.*

(a) Throughout the year there has been no unusual algal proliferation or other biological activity in the raw water and its quality has remained satisfactory, with the result that no undue difficulty has been experienced in the treatment of the water. Although the load on the filters during the peak summer period was heavy, it was not excessive, and it has been possible to maintain the coagulation process continuously throughout the year. This has resulted in a high degree of clarification and the quality of the water supplied throughout the year has been at all times pure and wholesome in character and in every way suitable for public supply purposes.

The work of extending the existing filtration plant, which was commenced in April, 1954, was delayed due to large formations of rock being encountered in the constructional work, but the installation is now nearing completion and it is expected that the new plant will be in use in April, 1956.

The scheme for replacing the existing chemical equipment with more adequate plant including the installation of new automatic proportioning and injection chemical plant has now been authorised by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. Work under the scheme commenced in October, 1955, and it is expected that the installation will be completed towards the end of 1956.

(b) There has been an ample quantity of water available for all purposes from the Corporation's four Impounding Reservoirs on Dartmoor, which have a storage capacity of 848 million gallons, or approximately 6 months' supply at the present rate of consumption. As in past years, there was a large number of visitors during the summer season which considerably increased the population within the area of supply and this, in conjunction with the dry summer, resulted in the highest consumption on record. For the first time in the history of the Undertaking the average daily consumption during the months of both July and August exceeded 5 million gallons per day, reaching at times $5\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons per day, but no difficulty was experienced in meeting this exceptionally high seasonal peak demand, and no restrictions whatsoever were imposed on the use of water.

(ii) *Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; the results of any chemical analyses.*

Both chemical and bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw and treated water. The whole of the supply is treated, this comprising coagulation with chemicals, filtration through pressure filters, addition of lime water to neutralise the acidity and increase the bicarbonate alkalinity, and finally sterilisation by the application of gaseous chlorine.

The raw water is normally acid with a pH value varying from 6.0 to 6.6; after treatment the value is raised to about 9.0, which results in the consumers receiving a water on the alkaline side of neutrality.

The chlorine dosage is normally about one part per million, but is adjusted so as to maintain a residuum in the water, passing into distribution from the service reservoirs.

Several chemical and bacteriological analyses have been made of the raw and finally treated water, as follows:

RAW WATER

A—Chemical and Bacteriological, Fernworthy Inlet at Trenchford Reservoir
—Taken 25.5.55.

B—Chemical and Bacteriological, Trenchford Reservoir Draw-off Valve
Tower—Representing water conveyed to Pressure Filters—Taken
25.5.55.

FILTERED WATER

C—Chemical and Bacteriological—Filtered Water Main from Pressure
Filters—With coagulation but prior to alkalisation with lime and
sterilisation with gaseous chlorine—Taken 25.5.55.

FULLY TREATED WATER

D—Chemical and Bacteriological—Gallowsgate Service Reservoir—Taken
25.5.55.

E—Chemical and Bacteriological, Warberry Service Reservoir—Taken
25.5.55.

F—Chemical and Bacteriological, Great Hill Service Reservoir—Taken
1.11.55.

G—Chemical and Bacteriological, Chapel Hill Service Reservoir—Taken
1.11.55.

REPORTS BY THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

66 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1

A. SAMPLE 25.5.55

TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR

(Fernworthy Reservoir inlet at Trenchford Reservoir—Raw water.)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Faint opalescence with a few particles. Microscopical examination: mineral and organic debris; diatoms, chlorophyceae and protozoa.

Colour	24	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH	6.0	Odour	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	43	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	10	Total solids, dried at 180°C	30
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	3
Hardness: Total	6	{ Carbonate { Non-carbonate	3
		{ temporary 3 { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.056	Metals: Iron	0.14
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	2.0	Other Metals	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	{ 1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	{ 450 per ml.	600 per ml.	180 per ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable Number</i>
Cl. welchii Reaction	...10* ml.	1 ml.	13 per 100 ml.
	...20 ml.	10 ml.	8 per 100 ml.
	...100 ml.	10 ml.	

* Intermediate type I.

This sample shows only slight opalescence and carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is slightly acid in reaction, extremely soft in character and has a very low content of alkalinity. It has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. Colour is noticeable but not pronounced and organic quality is satisfactory for a raw water. Bacterial impurity is confined to the presence of organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group, including Bact. coli, in very moderate number.

Treatment is required to clarify the water, to restrain corrosive activity and to achieve bacterial quality appropriate to a public supply.

B. SAMPLE 25.5.55

TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR

(Near Draw-off Valve Tower, representing raw water conveyed to pressure filters at Tottiford, near Bovey Tracey.)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Faint opalescence with a few particles. Microscopical examination: mineral and organic debris; diatoms, protozoa and a few chlorophyceae.

Colour	10	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH	6.6	Odour	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	80	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	14	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	55
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	4
Hardness: Total	19	{ Carbonate { Non-carbonate	15
		{ temporary 4 { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.6	Nitrite Nitrogen	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.051	Metals: Iron	0.04
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours		Other Metals	Absent
at 27°C.	1.0		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies	{ 1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
developing on Agar	{ 90 per ml.	140 per ml.	450 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable Number</i>
... ..	... — ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	... — ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	... — ml.	100 ml.	

This sample shows only slight opalescence and carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is slightly acid in reaction, very soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity. It has also a comparatively small content of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. Colour is practically absent and organic and bacterial purity are very satisfactory.

C. SAMPLE 25.5.55

TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR

(Filtered water main from pressure filters at Tottiford—with coagulation but prior to alkalisatation with lime and sterilisation with gaseous chlorine.)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a few particles. Microscopical examination: amorphous mineral and organic debris; a few protozoa.

Colour	3	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH	6.0	Odour	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	86	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	3
Chlorine present as Chloride	14	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	60
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	3
Hardness: Total	20	{ Carbonate 3 { Non-carbonate	17
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.021	Metals: Iron	0.04
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours		Aluminium	0.08
at 27°C.	0.40	Other Metals	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	}	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
		0 per ml.	0 per ml.	70 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aero-		<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable Number</i>
genes Reaction ...	...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	...	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and free from metals apart from negligible traces of iron and aluminium. The water is acid in reaction, soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity. It is free from noticeable colour and of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are very satisfactory and subject to final alkalisation with lime to restrain corrosive activity, the results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

D. SAMPLE 25.5.55

GALLOWSGATE RESERVOIR

(Gallowsgate Service Reservoir: Treated water—coagulated, filtered, hardened and chlorinated from Tottiford and Fernworthy Watersheds.)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with very few particles. Microscopical examination: amorphous mineral debris.

Colour ...	Nil	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH ...	9.3	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	102	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	15	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	70
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	11
Hardness: Total ...	30	{ Carbonate 11 { Non-carbonate	19
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	1.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.007	Residual Chlorine ...	0.11
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.020	Metals: Iron ...	0.03
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours		Aluminium ...	0.05
at 27°C. ...	0.35	Other Metals ...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	}	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
		0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aero-		<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable Number</i>
genes Reaction ...	...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	...	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, distinctly but not excessively alkaline in reaction and it is free from metals apart from negligible traces of iron and aluminium. The water is soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from colour, of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

E. SAMPLE 25.5.55

WARBERRY RESERVOIR

(Warberry Service Reservoir. Treated water—coagulated, filtered, hardened and chlorinated from Tottiford and Fernworthy Watersheds.)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a few particles. Microscopical examination: Ferruginous mineral debris.

Colour	4	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH	9	Odour	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	100	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	15	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	70
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	10
Hardness: Total	29	{ Carbonate { Non-carbonate	19
		{ temporary 10 { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.012	Residual Chlorine	0.12
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.044	Metals: Iron	0.18
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.35	Other Metals	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar }	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	<i>Present in</i> — ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 100 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, distinctly but not excessively alkaline in reaction and it is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour, of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

F. SAMPLE 1.11.55

GREAT HILL RESERVOIR

(Great Hill Service Reservoir. Treated water—coagulated, filtered, hardened and chlorinated from Tottiford and Fernworthy Watersheds.)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a very slight flocculent deposit. Microscopical examination: Amorphous mineral debris.

Colour (Filtered)	8	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH	9	Odour	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	75	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	12	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	50
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	11
Hardness: Total	20	{ Carbonate { Non-carbonate	9
		{ temporary 11 { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.064	Residual Chlorine	0.45
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.053	Metals: Iron	0.04
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.45	Other Metals	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	3 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aero- genes Reaction ...	<i>Present in</i> ... — ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 100 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	... — ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	... — ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, distinctly but not excessively alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very soft in character and has a comparative low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour, of very satisfactory organic quality, and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

G. SAMPLE 1.11.55

CHAPEL HILL RESERVOIR

(Inlet to Chapel Hill Service Reservoir, Torquay. Treated water—coagulated, filtered, hardened, and chlorinated from Tottiford and Fernworthy Watersheds.)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a slight brown flocculent deposit. Microscopical examination: amorphous mineral and traces of organic debris.

Colour (Filtered) ...	15	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 3
Reaction pH ...	9	Odour ...	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	75	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	11	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	50
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ...	11
Hardness: Total ...	19	{ Carbonate 11 { Non-carbonate	8
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.066	Residual Chlorine ...	0.13
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.076	Metals: Iron ...	0.15
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ...	0.70	Other Metals ...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml.	1 per ml.	1 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aero- genes Reaction ...	<i>Present in</i> ... — ml.	<i>Absent from</i> 100 ml.	<i>Probable Number</i> 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	... — ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	... — ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, distinctly but not excessively alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is very soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It shows only a trace of colour, it is of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES,
for The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Samples are also taken regularly from a variety of sources within the Borough, such as storage reservoirs, drinking fountains, taps in private houses, dairies, schools, etc.; 82 such samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and in 78 the results were good, viz:

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE
EXETER

“Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml.=nil. This sample is satisfactory bacteriologically.”

In the 4 remaining samples the probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. was less than 10; and in 2 of these cases Bact. coli of the faecal type was detected.

(iii) *Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and the number and result of analyses.*

The analyses show a minute trace of iron and sometimes a negligible trace of aluminium, all other metals being absent.

The pH is maintained at the level mentioned previously to avoid action on lead.

(iv) *Action in respect of any form of contamination.*

No special action has been required.

(v) *Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supply from public water mains (a) direct to the houses; (b) by means of standpipes.*

(a) The proportion of dwelling houses with a supply from public water mains direct to the houses is 98.8 per cent, and the proportion of the population thus supplied is 98.5 per cent.

(b) The proportion of dwelling houses supplied by means of standpipes is 1.2 per cent, the proportion of the population thus supplied being 1.5 per cent.

(vi) *Mineral Spring.*

3 samples taken from the mineral spring in Meadfoot Sea Road were submitted for bacteriological examination. (This spring is at present used to supply a public drinking fountain.) 2 samples gave satisfactory results, viz.: probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml.—nil. In the case of the other sample, examination showed that the probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. was 8.

(vii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Borough Engineer, Mr. P. W. Ladmore, M.Inst.C.E., has kindly given the following details in connexion with drainage, sewerage and public cleansing.

During the year under review, the laying of the 33-in. and 36-in. diameter sewers in Lymington Road and Teignmouth Road (from Chatto Road to Crossman's Sawmills) together with the laying of 39-in. and 36-in. diameter sewers from Hele Road junction to Trumlands Road and Happaway Road, has been in progress.

(viii) *Closet Accommodation.*

No cases of conversion are known during the year under review.

(ix) *Public Cleansing.*

There has been an increase in collection and disposal due to new housing development. Disposal is now carried out by controlled tipping in place of incineration.

(x) *Rivers and Streams.*

Any action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

There are no rivers in the area, but several small streams; no complaints have been received during the year concerning pollution. Two small streams, one rising near the railway at Lowes Bridge and the other at Watcombe, are not subject to pollution other than that from surface road washings.

(xi) *Salvage.*

The collection and recovery of salvable material continue, and the following are the details of the amounts of salvage recovered:

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Paper, Cardboard, Books, etc.	538	15	1	26
Bedrails			35 only	
Scrap Iron	42	13	2	—
Baled Tins	9	3	3	22
Cast Aluminium		10	—	—
Rolled Aluminium		6	1	—
Brass		5	1	7
Copper, Clean		1	—	26
Copper, Braised		5	—	6
Brass and Copper Mixed		3	1	23
Lead Scrap	2	1	1	3
Zinc, Rolled		3	1	10
Rags	2	7	—	—
Woollens		1	—	12
Carpet	1	4	2	—
Bottles, Jars, etc.			1,175 dozen	
Hats, Ladies			10 only	
String		1	1	—
Oil		510	gallons	
Rubber		5	—	—
Cement Bags	1	2	—	—
Old Rubber Tyres	2	2	1	—
Batteries			8 only	
Felt		2	2	—

2. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

The inspection of all districts in the Borough has been very efficiently carried out during the year under your Chief Sanitary Inspector, who gives these details:

The organisation of the work remains unchanged, each of the four Inspectors being reponsible for a District of the Borough, while the duties of meat inspection at the Abattoir are shared by three in rotation and the fourth carries out the routine inspection of fish at the Harbour.

The co-operation and work of the individual inspectors have been excellent; and the high standard, in all the wide range of duties, reflects the greatest credit on their diligence and ability.

The following inspections were carried out:

Dwelling Houses

New Houses inspected	182
Habitation Certificates signed	119
Council House applications—visits	200
Council Houses inspected	169

Work done in consequence of service of notices:

Roofs repaired	...	...	29	renewed	1
Chimneys repaired...	...	...	3	renewed	—
Eaves gutters repaired	...	...	13	renewed	2
Rain Water Pipes repaired	...	...	14	renewed	22
External rendering repaired	...	...	13	renewed	6
Internal rendering repaired	...	...	14	renewed	6
Ceilings repaired	...	...	12	renewed	7
Windows repaired...	...	...	20	renewed	7
Doors repaired	...	...	7	renewed	2
Floors repaired	...	...	20	renewed	3
Stoves and Fireplaces repaired	...	...	4	renewed	1
Stairs repaired	...	...	3	renewed	—
Handrails repaired	...	...	5	renewed	—
Coppers repaired	...	...	—	renewed	—
Walls repaired	...	...	—	built	1
Yards cleansed	...	...	1	repaved	5
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	7
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	—
Ladders provided	...	...	...	...	1
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	32
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	6
Drains and Sewers:					
Inspected	...	...	...	...	294
Tests applied	...	...	...	...	231
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	82
Cesspools inspected, repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	51
Revisits to drainage work	...	...	...	...	931

Drainage work carried out:

Interceptors fixed	...	...	...	...	7
Fresh Air Inlets provided	...	...	...	...	11
Inspection Chambers built	...	...	...	...	66
Iron Frames and Covers provided	...	...	...	...	78
Soil and Vent Pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	39
Gullies provided	...	...	...	...	62
Waste Pipes provided	...	...	...	...	87
Waste Pipes trapped	...	...	...	...	87
Flushing Cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	48
Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Flushing Cisterns renewed	...	...	...	...	19
Water Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Water Closets renewed	...	...	...	...	29
Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	44
Water Closet Apartments built	...	...	...	...	25
Water Closet Apartments ventilated	...	...	...	...	5
Water Closet Apartments cleansed	...	...	...	...	—
Lavatory Basins provided	...	...	...	...	62
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	31
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	14
Urinals repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Urinals renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Additional Urinals provided	...	...	...	...	4
Choked Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	95
Sanitary Certificates granted	...	...	...	...	2

<i>General Public Health</i>						<i>Inspections</i>	
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	22	
Open Spaces—Nuisances			...	...	...	8	
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	45	
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.			...	...	...	57	
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	147	
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	9	
Cinemas, Dance Halls	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Shops—Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	146	
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	9	
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Ships	...	...	...	...	...	25	
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Offensive Accumulations removed			...	...	...	1	
Noise nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Abattoir	...	...	...	...	...	673	
Meat Depot	...	...	...	...	...	25	
Fish Quay	...	...	...	...	...	92	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>							
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	367	
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	788	
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	40	

NOTICES SERVED.

	<i>Verbal</i>		<i>Written</i>		<i>Statutory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>
Public Health Act ...	213	183	58	36	4	4	275	223
Housing Act ...	6	3	40	21	1	1	47	25
Factories Act ...	—	—	19	17	—	—	19	17
Food and Drugs Act ...	41	20	7	4	—	—	48	24
TOTALS ...	260	206	124	78	5	5	389	289

(Note : Some of the notices complied with were outstanding from the previous year.)

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Co-operation has been maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories in the exercise of the provisions of this Act ; any contraventions of those sections under the control of H.M. Inspector which are noticed by your Sanitary Inspectors are notified and this action is reciprocated.

The accompanying tables give the details of the inspections and the defects found—and of the Outworkers with the type of work undertaken.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES. (Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspection (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	58	39	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	257	108	13	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding outworkers' premises) ...	3	27	27	1	—
TOTAL ...		342	174	19	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	7	6	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	3	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	4	1	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	6	4	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	60	24	17	—	7	—

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some Premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing apparel { Making, etc. ...	13	34					
	14	—					
Basket making ...	40	14					
TOTAL ...	70	48	—	—	—	—	—

Marine Store Dealers.

Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, was adopted by the Local Authority in 1910, and since that date a register of Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Stores has been maintained, and regular inspections made of the premises. Six premises were on the register, and twelve inspections were made.

Smoke Abatement.

In a town like Torquay, the work under this section is not very considerable; nine observations have been made in connexion with alleged nuisances, but nothing has occurred which has justified any formal notice or action.

Common Lodging House.

The registration of the one common lodging house in the Borough was not renewed in 1955; and there is now no common lodging house—another sign of the changing times.

Offensive Trades.

There is one Tripe Boiler registered in the district. Four inspections have been made and no complaint of any nuisance has been received.

Diseases of Animals Act, 1951.

One notice, Form A, under the Anthrax Order, 1938, was received declaring a farm an infected place, but was withdrawn the next day when the diagnosis of anthrax was not confirmed.

Two notices, Form A, under the Swine Fever Order, were received, and the necessary steps taken in connexion with disinfection.

A report was received from the Divisional Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, that a cow in one of the herds in the Borough was suspected to be infected with *Salmonella* Dublin; investigations were immediately made, and it was found that the animal had died. The milk from the herd, which is Attested and Licensed Tuberculin Tested, is sent in daily for pasteurisation.

Disinfections and Disinfestations.

156 premises were treated during the year and 36 separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act requires (a) the registration of premises where filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys, carriages and other articles of upholstery (but this does not apply to reconditioning or remaking); and (b) the licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored for distribution to registered premises.

Registration should be accorded unconditionally if the premises are used for the purpose stated and the fee is paid; licences should be granted after an officer has inspected and reported on the premises, which are to have such appliances as may be necessary to enable clean rag flock to be manufactured, and licences can only be refused on limited grounds.

The necessary records have to be kept on registered and on licensed premises in the form prescribed; and there are powers of entry, of inspection and of sampling.

The sale of articles with unclean materials is forbidden, although this does not apply to second-hand articles; the word "clean" means compliance with standards laid down by regulations. And the filling materials are defined as rag flock, cotton flock, unwoven wool, jute, unwoven synthetic fibres, hair, feathers, down, kapok, coir fibre, seaweed, straw and such other materials as may be prescribed.

Regulations have so far been made on the type of records, the right to have samples tested, and the standards of cleanliness; the Minister has also prescribed certain analysts to whom samples must be sent for testing.

There is only one premises registered under the Act, and one other premises is licensed annually for the storage of rag flock.

Samples of filling materials were obtained during the year, and the results are as follows:

<i>Type of Material</i>					<i>Satisfactory</i>
1 Sample Rag Flock	...	...	...	...	1
2 Coir Fibre	...	...	...	...	2

Shops Act, 1950.

The duties, so far as public health is concerned, are connected with the maintenance of suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, of reasonable temperature, of lighting, of sanitary accommodation and of the provision of washing facilities.

During the year routine inspections were carried out and no contraventions of these sections were discovered.

No exemptions were granted.

In addition to these arrangements for health and comfort, your Sanitary Inspectors are also responsible for the administration of the other provisions of the Act; these are not really Public Health matters and include hours of closing, conditions of employment, provisions affecting young persons under 18, Sunday employment and Sunday trading. Copies of a summary of the various enactments have been distributed on the visit of your Sanitary Inspectors, and copies of a schedule have also been distributed showing the provisions of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938; these are especially important for hotels and places of public entertainment, whose owners have the option to apply either this Act or Part I of the Shops Act. The requirements include the permitted weekly hours of employment, overtime, intervals for meals and rest, half-holidays, night and Sunday employment, and the exhibition of Notice C.

In this connexion a number of enquiries have been received from young persons and parents, and also from employers; and the necessary help and advice have been given. In addition, there is close co-operation with the Youth Employment Officer of the Ministry of Labour in dealing with cases brought to his notice.

146 Visits were made in connexion with this Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act requires shops selling pet animals to be licensed by the Local Authority. Licences are granted subject to certain provisions to ensure that the accommodation shall be suitable in respect of size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness, that suitable food and drink and care of the animals are provided, and that no animal is displayed in such position as to expose it to interference or annoyance by persons or animals, that entrance and exit from the shop are not rendered difficult in case of emergency, and that there are suitable measures for fire prevention and control.

The administration of the Act is carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors, and the following shows the number of applications for licences:

Number of applications for licences	...	...	5
Number of licences granted	...	...	5

The premises licensed have been regularly inspected during the year.

The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952, and the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations. 1953.

The Regulations require fireguards to be fitted to gas fires, electric fires, and oil heaters of types so designed that they are suitable for domestic use and so constructed that, without a guard, there is a likelihood of injury by burning or of ignition of clothing by reason of contact with or proximity to the heating element.

The standards to which the guards must comply are prescribed, and the necessary apparatus for testing has been obtained: and your Sanitary Inspectors are carrying out the work of checking new fireguards and of enforcing the Regulations.

Riding Establishments Act, 1939.

This Act is designed to ensure the adequate care and well-being of horses in riding schools and similar establishments.

Arrangements have been made in Torquay for the South-Western Branch of the Royal Veterinary Association to nominate a Veterinary Surgeon to carry out this work on the terms agreed to by the Association. Mr. C. Masson, M.R.C.V.S., was appointed and carries out regular inspections of the horses; and his reports show that the condition of the horses was found to be satisfactory.

Fouling of Footpaths by dogs.

New bye-laws in connexion with the fouling of footpaths by dogs were adopted at the end of 1953 and came into force early in 1954. Following the adoption of the bye-laws, the Home Office, before approving, required to be satisfied that adequate publicity would be given to the matter. It was thus arranged, in addition to the usual publicity of press and hoardings, for small easily read notices on metal plates to be affixed at about a height of six to seven feet to a number of lamp-posts in the shopping areas, and in other parts where people tend to promenade their dogs. In all some 170 notices have so far been fixed.

From observations made, it is felt that there has already been a noticeable improvement and the pavements are certainly cleaner. It is hoped that the improvement will be maintained and that the public will continue to co-operate in what is both a public health and social nuisance of some magnitude and importance.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

(a) Public Swimming Baths.

In the Corporation Swimming Baths, following the report of your Medical Officer, it was decided to change the chlorination plant from simple chlorination to the "break-point" method; and the

new apparatus was installed and in operation at the end of August. In simple chlorination when the addition of the gas chlorine comes into contact with the products of contamination like ammonia, it is changed into organic compounds which have a much slower sterilising power, and when much ammonia is present the lethal effect of chlorination is considerably reduced. The new method depends on the fact that the addition of further chlorine turns all the ammonias into organic compounds, which, with more chlorine still, are then broken down and destroyed, ultimately leaving the chlorine available as free residual chlorine. This is called the break-point system.

To obtain the best results, and as chlorine has an acid effect, it has also been found that the maintenance of the reaction of the water on the alkaline side of neutrality is necessary: and this is achieved by the addition of an alkali like "soda lime" (Sodium Carbonate). Fortunately, the research chemists have produced an automatic hydraulic solution feeder for this, which is connected to an automatic chlorinator, and the combined substance is injected directly into the water. By this means, very simple control can enable a free residual chlorine of 1 part per million (or more) to be achieved which is not otherwise obtainable, and is twice as much as the maximum of the present standard of 0.2 to 0.5 parts per million.

The main advantage is the high degree of purity from bacteria; for example in experimental work it has been found that the time taken to kill various pathogenic bacteria is reduced from 100 mins. to 1 min., and from 20 mins. to 12 secs. And although this cannot be translated into what would happen in actual swimming baths (experimental work is still awaited) it is probable that nearly all harmful bacteria would be killed within a few minutes. Poliomyelitis virus is also inactivated by chlorine and this is especially important in view of the publicity which this disease usually attracts.

The change has made a very marked decided improvement; there has been no difficulty in maintaining a residual of 1.5 to 2.0 parts of chlorine, at a pH of 8.0–8.2, without any complaint by bathers; this has produced uniformly satisfactory bacteriological results, even when samples have been taken at the end of a session when the baths have been crowded with bathers. The only failure since the changeover was due to temporary breakdown of the old motor of the circulating plant.

Moreover, there has also been a most striking improvement in the clarity of the water (which is sea water), and this has been noticed and commented on by many visitors. In order to test the clarity it was decided to obtain the instrument described in the Report on "The Purification of the Water of Swimming Baths" issued by the Ministry of Health in 1951. The instrument consists of a watertight viewing tube, something like an inverted periscope, with a plane

glass window near the bottom behind which a plane mirror is mounted at an angle of 45 degrees to the vertical, so that light entering horizontally through the window is reflected vertically through the tube; a target is also provided which is a matt black disc, 6 inches in diameter, attached to a black rod about 4 feet long. In taking a reading the observer holds the viewing tube so that the mirror is below the water level and facing the direction in which the target is to be moved; an assistant immerses the target and holds it a few feet in front of the mirror, so that the observer looking down the tube can see the target. The assistant then moves the target slowly away, along the side of the bath until the observer is unable to see it owing to the turbidity of the water; and the distance between target and mirror when the target just ceases to be visible is taken as a measure of clarity of the water.

The readings were not started until October, but the results so far showed that a distance of 60 to 65 feet was easily obtained before bathers entered; and average daily distances of 30–45 feet have been regularly obtained at the end of sessions with up to 200 bathers. The minimum suggested by the Report of the Ministry is 30 feet, although with a heavy bathing load the distance may be reduced to 15 feet; so that the Torquay readings are highly satisfactory up to the present. The readings during the coming summer season, when the baths will be very crowded again, will be awaited with interest.

A full daily log is kept detailing the hours during which the plant is working, the number of bathers, the three readings of the pH and chlorine content, and the clarity readings.

Although these measures are doing all that is scientifically possible at present to ensure the highest standard of safety and clarity in the water, there still remains the long overdue problem of the reconstruction and modernisation of the Baths; and although the present economic restrictions in capital expenditure may cause this to be delayed still further, it is hoped that this most essential public health project will be kept in the foreground of those schemes which should be started as soon as circumstances permit.

The Corporation Swimming Baths are visited weekly and samples of water are taken from both the shallow end and the deep end. A test to determine the adequacy of the chlorine content is also made at each visit.

94 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows:

With simple chlorination up to August—

			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end	...	...	27	6	33
Shallow end	...	...	27	4	31
			—	—	—
			<u>54</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>64</u>

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the examinations showed that the probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 17, and in 8 cases Bact. coli of the faecal type was detected.

After installation of break-point chlorination in August—

			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end	...	...	14	1	15
Shallow end	...	...	15	—	15
			—	—	—
			29	1*	30
			—	—	—

* Due to mechanical breakdown.

(b) *Privately owned Swimming Baths.*

There are two privately owned swimming baths in connexion with hotels in the Borough. One is a covered bath constructed before the war with no mechanical system of filtration and chlorination, although this has been recommended to the Management: the present method of chlorination is unreliable.

80 samples were taken for bacteriological examination from this swimming bath, the results being as follows:

			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end	...	...	27	10	37
Shallow end	...	...	32	11	43
			—	—	—
			59	21	80
			—	—	—

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the examinations showed that the probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 110, and in 9 cases Bact. coli of the faecal type was detected.

The other is a modern open-air swimming bath in which there is a main swimming bath 75 feet by 30 feet, with depths from 3 feet to 7 feet; coupled with this is a small children's swimming pool 27 feet by 15 feet, with depths from 2 feet to 3 feet. The water is fresh main water heated to 60°F. with a continuous circulation through a sand filter and an oil-burning heater, and there is a chlorination plant.

31 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows:

			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end	...	...	14	1	15
Shallow end	...	...	15	1	16
			—	—	—
			29	2	31
			—	—	—

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the examinations showed that the probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 120, and in 1 case Bact. coli of the faecal type was detected.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

(1) *The number of houses infested during the year was:*

(a)	Council houses	...	...	...	...	0
(b)	Other houses	...	...	...	...	0

The number of houses disinfested was:

(a)	Council houses	...	...	...	...	0
(b)	Other houses	...	...	...	...	0

(2) *The methods employed for freeing infested houses from Bed-Bugs.*

Premises are disinfested by spraying with insecticide over all the surfaces or by use of an insecticide powder. If necessary, woodwork is removed from walls, etc.

(3) *The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses;*

Notice is obtained before the transfer of tenants so that the District Sanitary Inspectors can visit and inspect prior to removal; any belongings of the tenants found to be verminous are dealt with before the transfer is effected.

(4) *Whether the work of disinfection is carried out by Local Authority or by a Contractor.*

All the work is carried out by the Local Authority.

Measures against Rodents.

This work has been carried out, on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, under your Chief Sanitary Inspector, who gives the following details:

At the request of the Ministry, this section of the Report covers the period of the twelve months ending 31st March, 1956. This has been done in order to simplify the examination of claims received from local authorities.

One sewer maintenance treatment was completed, when 379 manholes were baited. No Complete Pre-Bait Takes, 104 Partial Takes and 275 No Takes were recorded. In addition, a 20 per cent. test baiting was carried out, and in this connexion 431 manholes were baited and 49 manholes were found to be infested.

In surface control, 572 treatments were made to private premises and 121 treatments to business premises. The co-operation of owners and occupiers has again proved most helpful, and a number of premises have been rat-proofed after successful treatments.

The education in measures of rodent control of the staff of various establishments has continued; while the subsequent work carried out is supervised by your Rodent Operatives, the arrangement results in a considerable saving of their time.

RODENT CONTROL

(Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1956)

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>All other (including business premises)</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Agri- cultural</i>
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	46	14,107	2,695	16,848	42
Number of properties inspected by the L.A. during 1955 as a result of (a) notification, (b) survey or (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.	(a) 9	198	70	277	—
	(b) 2	1,022	102	1,126	—
	(c) —	639	1,139	1,778	13
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	26	1,859	1,311	3,196	42
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :— (a) Rats { Major Minor	—	13	—	13	Nil
	7	251	30	288	Nil
(b) Mice { Major Minor	1	6	3	10	Nil
	1	95	29	125	Nil
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	9	365	62	436	Nil
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	17	572	104	693	Nil
Number of notices served under Sec.4: (1) Treatment ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Structural works (i.e. Proofing)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Legal Proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Number of "block" control schemes carried out ... Nil

SECTION D

HOUSING

The following is the table of information required :—

1. *Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	439
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	916
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	50
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	156
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	30
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	317

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	243
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after formal notice :	
(a) By owners ...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	3

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—

(3) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	1
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements, or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
(e) Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949. Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2)	—
(f) Proceedings under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	29

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding;*

During the year little overcrowding has been revealed by the day to day work and of 10 complaints only 3 cases were found to be overcrowded within the legal definition. There must, of course, be other cases which only a detailed survey would reveal, but, generally speaking, this problem does not appear to be so acute as is sometimes considered.

New Houses.

The following table shows the new Council houses completed since the war:—

ESTATE	2 bed-room houses	3 bed-room houses	4 bed-room houses	2 bed-room bungalows	3 bed-room bungalows	Flats		3 bed-room flats over shops	Old Peoples Bungalows			TOTAL
						3 bed-room	2 bed-room		bed recess	1 bed-room	2 bed-room	
Cadewell ...	97	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	97
Happaway ...	143	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	143
Watcombe ...	—	114	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	135
Coombe Pafford	8	275	4	—	—	—	—	7	6	4	6	310
Starpitten ...	—	8	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	20
Marldon ...	6	283	—	16	10	—	—	—	—	10	4	329
Sherwell Valley ...	153	161	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	—	—	350
Warbro Court ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	15	—	—	—	—	18
Collaton Court ...	—	—	—	—	—	6	12	—	—	—	—	18
Hele ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8
TOTAL ...	411	841	18	22	10	9	63	7	6	15	26	1,428

New Housing.

Since the war the total number of council houses and flats completed is 1,428 (72 being completed during 1955) and the number built by private enterprise is 733 (121 being completed during 1955). The total number of inhabited residential houses in the Borough is now 15,221. There were no council houses under construction at the end of the year, but there were 76 houses under construction by private enterprise.

Housing Defects.

The work carried out during the year under the Housing Act, 1936, was restricted to essential repairs only, and was generally the result of complaints by tenants. The number of such houses rendered fit for habitation was 243.

In previous reports reference was made to three essential factors upon which future improvement of the general housing position intimately depends: first, the treatment and cure of the creeping paralysis due to Rent Restriction; secondly, the encouragement of owners not only to maintain essential repairs, but also to improve the amenities of the property (where this is required) by the installation in gradual stages of such facilities as a larder, wash-basin, bath, hot water system and the like; and, thirdly, the preservation of a good relationship between landlord and tenant. And it was hoped that the attainment of these conditions would be facilitated by recent legislation. Unfortunately, the use of improvement grants has so far been limited to owner-occupiers; and the big problem of tenanted property remains unsolved.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

The details of Part II of this Act and the Housing Repairs (Increase of Rent) Regulations, 1954, were given in the previous annual report; and the main duty of Local Authorities is to deal with applications of tenants for "Certificates of Disrepair" in cases where the landlord claims a repairs increase and the tenant feels that the house is not in sufficiently good condition to justify it.

During the year, no application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair.

Underground Room Regulations.

These Regulations were adopted in 1951 and specify a suitable standard for the operation of Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—a standard which is not reached by a large number of basement dwellings in the Borough.

It is not practicable at present to deal with all these basements and rehouse the tenants; but whenever possible voluntary undertakings are obtained from owners that the rooms, when vacant, will not again be used for human habitation.

No such undertakings were obtained during the year.

Slum Clearance.

It was reported in the previous year that five small areas had been scheduled as clearance areas and that the necessary proposals under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, had been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

Following representations from the Minister it was decided to rescind the Orders declaring the clearance areas and to proceed with the properties under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953; the reason was that the properties to be dealt with were so interlocked with other buildings that it would be exceedingly difficult, and indeed unnecessary, to proceed to actual demolition. And most of the owners intended, subject to Town Planning consent, to incorporate the buildings in their business premises or to use them for purposes other than human habitation.

Accordingly, notice of intention to make Closing Orders was given, and ultimately closing orders were made in respect of the following properties:

Melville Lane.

Nos. 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 14, 26, 28, No. 1 Steps Cottages, No. 2 Glenkyn Cottages (also known as part of 26 Warren Road).

Higher Union Lane.

Nos. 6, 7, 9, Cottage at rear of No. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 13A, 15, 15A, 17, 18, 19.

South Street.

Nos. 5, 7, and 9.

East Street.

Nos. 56A and 56B.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

*(a) Milk Supply.**(i) Source of Supply.*

Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.
The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2)
Order, 1953.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
(Amendment) Regulations, 1953.

As Torquay is within a specified area (made under an Order in 1953) all milk in the Borough must be pasteurised or sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

A Producer's licence to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" may now be granted or renewed only if the herd is also registered in the Register of Attested Herds kept by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Producers' licences issued after 1st October, 1949, and up to 30th September, 1951, remain valid for five years from the date of issue; and those issued on or after 1st October, 1954, will be valid for only three years from the date of issue.

Tuberculin Tested milk may not be retailed by can and dipper; it must be supplied to the buyer in a properly closed container (e.g. bottle, carton, churn, can). In the case of bottled milk, the cap shall bear the address of the premises at which the milk is bottled and the words "Tuberculin Tested Milk"; where other containers are used, they must be closed with a tightly fitting cover and suitably sealed and labelled.

Pasteurised Milk.

Pasteurisers are now required to fit containers of pasteurised milk with caps or covers which overlap the lips of the containers, to provide better protection for the milk: this applies to churns and cans as well as bottles. Pasteurisers must put the milk into the containers in which it is to be delivered to the customer, whether householder, caterer or other consumer; and milk must be put into the containers at the premises where the milk is pasteurised, as soon as possible after pasteurisation.

*Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949 and 1950.*

Heat-treated Milk.

There are now three licensed Pasteurising Establishments; two are plants operating the Holder method (in 100-Gallon Batch Pasteurisers) and one is a high-temperature short-time plant. Regular supervision of all these plants is maintained by your Sanitary Inspectors and samples of milk are taken every fortnight from each plant. A total of 79 samples gave the following results:

	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Void.</i>
Phosphatase test	77	2	—
Methylene Blue reduction test...	61	2	16*

* The regulations state that on arrival at the laboratory the samples of milk shall be removed from the insulated container and kept at atmospheric shade temperature until the test is begun. If at any time the atmospheric shade temperature in the immediate vicinity of the samples, as indicated by the maximum thermometer adjusted to below 65°F. at 9 a.m. on each day of sampling, has exceeded 65°F., the test shall be void.

The following licences were issued during the year:

Pasteuriser's Licence	3
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	57
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	4

Samples were also taken from Dealers in Heat-Treated milk who obtain their milk from Pasteurising Plants outside the Borough: Two were taken and both failed. In each case notification was sent to the Local Authority of the area concerned.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950.

The following licences were issued during the year:

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	57
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	4

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

In connexion with the bottling of this milk, there is one bottling plant in the Borough; during the year 8 samples of milk were taken, of which 7 passed and 1 failed. Three Specimens of washings from clean bottles were taken; and in each case there was a satisfactory bacterial count.

From the 8 samples of milk, 3 were submitted for biological examination for the presence of tuberculosis; and in each case the result was negative.

Retailers who previously bought pasteurised milk in bulk containers and bottled it for delivery to their customers must now purchase from their suppliers pasteurised milk in the necessary containers; i.e. bottled pasteurised milk for household deliveries and a separate churn or can for each caterer, etc., sealed by the pasteuriser, containing the quantity of pasteurised milk required.

Retailers must not sell "Pasteurised Milk" by can and dipper; it must be supplied to the buyer in a properly closed container (e.g. bottle, carton, churn, can). Every container is required to be conspicuously and legibly labelled or marked with the words "Pasteurised Milk" or "Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)", as the case may be.

Licences.

Licences are required for each type of specially designated milk produced or distributed. Producers must apply to the county milk regulations officers; pasteurisers and sterilisers to the food and drugs authorities; and dairymen, who buy specially designated milk, to the local authority, for the licences they require.

(ii) *Producers.*

At the end of the year there were 14 Dairy Farms within the Borough. Five of these possess Tuberculin Tested herds, the remainder having no special designation. The non-designated farms are visited regularly by your Sanitary Inspectors and occasional samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination; a total of 20 inspections was made.

(iii) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, Section 20.*

This section refers to the spread of infection by milk; and under it the Medical Officer of Health has power to prohibit the milk from being sold or used until it is heat-treated, if he has evidence, or reasonable grounds for suspecting, that the consumption of this milk may give rise to disease in any person, or that the milk itself is infected.

No action was necessary under this section during the year.

Dairies and Distributors.

Fourteen premises are registered as dairies and 61 persons are registered as distributors of milk. All premises used for the storage, treatment and sale of milk are inspected regularly, and in every case comply with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949; 194 inspections were made during the year.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.

Abattoir.

The arrangements at the Abattoir, now administered by the Corporation, have continued on the lines described in the previous report and have remained satisfactory. It was anticipated that the facilities of a new cooling hall would be provided during the year; but, owing to difficulties in obtaining the necessary steel, the contract was not due to start until the autumn. By that time it was apparent that there had been an appreciable reduction in the work of the slaughterhouse, because one large multiple firm made arrangements for slaughtering in another area, and the need for the cooling hall was not so insistent.

Accordingly, the contract was held in abeyance and the Master Butchers' Federation was consulted about different alterations and less costly ways of providing what additional facilities were now required; and at the end of the year, the matter had not been finally settled.

No undue difficulties had occurred during a very hot summer and a very busy season.

Licensing of Slaughterhouses.

As the facilities at the abattoir are meeting the requirements of the Borough, a resolution had been passed by the Corporation in December, 1954, determining that no further licences will be granted in respect of any premises not licensed on the date when the resolution took place. Advertisement of the Resolution was made and the approval of the Ministry was subsequently obtained.

Two applications had been made in 1954 to reopen small slaughterhouses which were previously licensed annually prior to 1939; and these were not granted. During 1955 one applicant applied for compensation under the Slaughterhouse Act, 1954, and his application was under consideration at the end of the year: the other applicant decided not to proceed with any application for compensation.

Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses (England & Wales).

The report of this Committee was published in July; and in connexion with the proposed policy of moderate concentration of abattoirs throughout the country, it is recommended that an area (No. 78) should be established with an Abattoir at Newton Abbot. The Local Authority Districts which this Abattoir would serve include, besides Newton Abbot Urban District Council, the Boroughs of Dartmouth, Torquay, Totnes, Urban Districts of Ashburton, Brixham, Buckfastleigh, Dawlish, Kingsbridge, Paignton, Salcombe, Teignmouth and the Rural Districts of Kingsbridge, Newton Abbot, and Totnes.

It is very much hoped that such a scheme as this will materialise as quickly as possible; for it is on the lines of the Resolution which the Corporation and the Newton Abbot Urban District Council sent to the Ministry of Food in 1954, and would be in the best interests of all concerned.

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

The Ministry of Food is empowered to make regulations for securing humane conditions in slaughterhouses and Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, is extended to cover all kinds of animals (this provides that animals must be instantaneously slaughtered, or instantaneously stunned and rendered insensible until death supervenes).

In connexion with the licensing (under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933) by the Local Authority of slaughtermen, the licence must now specify the kinds of animals which may be slaughtered or stunned by the holder of the licence, and the type of instrument which may be used.

Ten licences were issued during the year.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1954.

These regulations re-enact certain provisions of the Protection of Animals Act, 1911, in connexion with Knacker's Yards, and of the Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 and 1951, in connexion with Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yards, which were repealed by the Amendment Act, 1954.

Methods and Criteria of Meat Inspection.

In connexion with Circular MF 10/54 which drew attention to a number of details under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-1952, the arrangements made complied with the requirements concerning notice of slaughtering, non-removal of carcase prior to inspection, and meat inspection generally. Special provisions have been made in Torquay for the cold storage treatment of meat infected with *Cysticercus Bovis* in accordance with Section C of Part IV of Memorandum 3/Meat; and condemned meat is disposed of to a Contractor who has given a written undertaking that it will all be processed by heat (by a method to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) before the products are used for fertilisers and for pig and poultry meals.

In the public interest, the special glands and certain livers required by manufacturing chemists for pharmaceutical products are extracted and made available for this purpose.

(i) *Inspection of Meat.*

The following table gives the details of the inspections:

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR
IN PART

	<i>Cattle, exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	2,519	535	440	8,337	6,148	—
Number inspected	2,519	535	440	8,337	6,148	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	2	13	12	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	576	219	2	1,387	624	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	22.9%	41.1%	0.91%	16.8%	10.3%	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned...	6	2	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	248	96	—	—	405	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	10.0%	18.3%	—	—	6.6%	—
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	34	3	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	34	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Total weight of meat condemned: 45,082 lbs.)

In addition to the above a further 3,738 lb. of meat was condemned during the year at butchers' shops, the primary cause being bone taint.

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

Food condemned included:							<i>Weight lbs.</i>
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Butter, Fats, Lard	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Confectionery, Cake	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Confectionery, Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Eggs, Frozen	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	364
Fish, Frozen	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	46,319
Fruit, Bottled	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fruit, Dried	...	...	...	...	...	...	698
Jams and Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Jelly	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Milk, Dried	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pickles and Sauces	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Soup Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vegetables, Bottled	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,217
„ Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,385
„ Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,170
„ Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
„ Pastes	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
„ Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
„ Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
„ Fruit Juices	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
„ Fruit Puddings	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
„ Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Syrup	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							<hr/> 55,286 <hr/>

(Total weight condemned: 24 Tons 13 Cwts. 70 Lbs.)

(c) *Adulteration, etc.—Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

The following is a record of the samples taken:

				FORMAL		INFORMAL	
				No. of Samples	Not Genuine	No. of Samples	Not Genuine
Almond Oil	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Almonds (Ground)	...	...	...	2	—	3	—
Biscuit (Chocolate Sandwich)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Brandy	...	...	...	3	—	—	—
Butter	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Buttered Toast	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Cheese	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Confectionery (Cake)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Coconut (Dessicated)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Cream	...	...	...	—	—	6	—
Currants	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Dripping	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
Flour	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Gin	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	—	—	5	—
Jam—Plum	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Jam—Raspberry	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Jelly Tablet	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Liquid Paraffin	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Margarine	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Marmalade (Grapefruit)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Marmalade Jelly	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Marshmallow	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Marzipan	...	...	...	—	—	2	1
Meat Pasty	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Meringue	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Milk	...	...	...	18	3	25	1
Milk (Channel Island)	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Milk (Flavoured)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Non-Brewed Condiment	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Orange Juice (Diluted)	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Paste (Fish)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Pepper Flavoured Compound	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Pie (Meat)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Pie (Steak and Kidney)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Polony	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Pudding (Hogs)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Raisins	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Rennet, Essence of	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Rum	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Sage (Dried)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Sago Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Sausage Additive (Plasma)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Sausages (Beef)	...	...	...	—	—	4	2
Sausages (Pork)	...	...	...	—	—	13	5
Soft Drinks	...	...	...	4	—	—	—
Sugar Confectionery	...	...	...	—	—	8	1
Sultanas	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	—	—	2	1
Whisky	...	...	...	6	—	—	—
Yeast (Dried)	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
TOTAL				38	3	113	11

TABLE OF SAMPLES NOT GENUINE
FORMAL

<i>Regis- ter No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Deficiency</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
1682	Milk	2% deficient in fat	Referred to Devon County Council as Producer was outside Borough Prosecution with Conviction. Absolute discharge granted, due to special circumstances, on payment of advocate's fees and costs Warning letter from Local Authority
1693	Milk	28% added water	
1806	Milk	3% added water	

INFORMAL

<i>Regis- ter No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Deficiency</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
1679	Milk	13% deficient in fat	Referred to Devon County Council as Producer was outside Borough
1703	Pork		
	Sausages	16% deficient in meat	Warning
1710	Vinegar	Consisted of non-brewed condiment	Warning
1726	Pork		
	Sausages	5% deficient in meat	Warning
1756	Pork		
	Sausages	4% deficient in meat	Warning
1798	Sugar		
	Confectionery	Misleading description	Sample of Peanut Cream Toffee taken at end of year. Action proceeding
1805	Marzipan	Contained not more than 18% ground almonds	
1811	Beef		Warning
	Sausages	4% deficient in meat. Contained 100 parts per million Sulphur Dioxide	Warning
1812	Pork		
	Sausages	14% deficient in meat	Warning
1823	Pork		
	Sausages	3% deficient in meat	Warning
1825	Beef		
	Sausages	Contained 150 parts per million of Sulphur Dioxide	Warning

In all the above cases a warning was given to the vendor, and further samples taken. In connexion with the samples of sausages it should be noted that since March, 1953, when the Meat Products No. 3 Order, 1952, was revoked, no actual meat content standard for sausages has been in force; but efforts are being made informally to keep the standard at a high level.

(d) *Ice-Cream.*

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Amendment Regulations, 1952.

These allow a high temperature (175°F.) short time (15 seconds) heat treatment—as contrasted with a longer time at a lower temperature (either 160°F. for 10 minutes or 150°F. for 30 minutes). This is somewhat similar to the provisions for pasteurising milk, but ice-cream is really an emulsion of varying viscosity and difficult to propel through metal tubes. The apparatus has therefore to be thermostatically controlled, and must be fitted with a positive displacement pump which shall serve to maintain the flow of the mixture during its retention at the prescribed temperature at an even rate, and also with a device which shall automatically divert the flow of any mixture which has not been raised to the prescribed temperature.

There is at present no installation of this type in the Borough.

The supervision and registration of premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold have been carefully maintained: for ice-cream is an ideal medium for bacterial multiplication. The need cannot be over-emphasised for adequate sterilisation of all apparatus (and unless utensils are properly washed and cleaned first, they cannot be sterilised adequately), for the development of a “no-touch technique” (which means that hands should not be introduced into an ice-cream mix at any stage), and for the realisation of the greater danger if the hot-mix is not rapidly cooled with special apparatus (for any dangerous organisms introduced after heating have ideal conditions for multiplying during an inefficient cooling process).

There are now registered in the Borough 224 premises for the preparation, storage or sale of ice-cream, and in 169 of these only the pre-packed article is sold. The number of manufacturers has been reduced to one, using a hot mix (Torquay Corporation). And there is only one premises registered solely for the storage of ice-cream.

The bacteriological examination of samples has been continued by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter: and following the original work carried out by the Medical Research Council, a simple modified methylene blue test has been suggested for the grading of ice-cream:

<i>Provisional Grade</i>	<i>Time taken to reduce methylene blue</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
1	4½ hours or more	Satisfactory
2	2½–4 hours	Fair
3	½–2 hours	Unsatisfactory
4	0	Very bad

The following table gives the results of the samples taken during the year:

	GRADES				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Local Manufacturers ...	5	—	—	—	5
Outside Manufacturers ...	19	9	5	4	37
TOTAL	24	9	5	4	42

(e) *Food and Disease.*

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

This Act was passed during 1955 and came into force on 1st January, 1956; it repeals the Amendment Act, 1954, and consolidates it together with the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, and certain sections of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, and of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The regulations were made in December under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and come into force on 1st January, 1956 (apart from a delay of six months in some sections). They take the place of Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 (now repealed) and add a number of new provisions concerning the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles, etc., where food is handled. They do not apply to slaughterhouses and cold stores or to a number of other types of premises such as docks, warehouses, etc., except staff canteens or retail stores which may be operating there: and they replace regulations 19–21 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, concerning the transport and handling of meat.

The Regulations lay down requirements for (a) cleanliness of food premises and of apparatus and equipment; (b) the hygienic handling of food; (c) the cleanliness of persons engaged in handling food and of their clothing, and the action to be taken where they suffer from, or are carriers of, certain infections; (d) the construction of food premises, their repair and maintenance, and the facilities to be provided; and (e) the temperature at which certain foods, particularly liable to transmit disease, are to be kept in food premises.

The higher maximum penalties provided for in Section 106 of the Act are prescribed.

The operation of the Regulations which may require alterations to premises or substantial changes to existing practices is made subject to a delay of 6 months (1st July, 1956). Authority is given for certificates of exemption to be granted if, on account of special circumstances, the requirements of certain regulations cannot reasonably be complied with: and there is an appeal to a court of summary jurisdiction against the refusal or withdrawal of a certificate.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS.

It is requested that information should be given as far as possible under the following sub-headings:

- (i) *The number, if available, of food premises in the area, by type of business.*

<i>Type of Business</i>							<i>Approx. No.</i>
Grocers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Cake Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Cafés, Restaurants, Snack Bars, etc.					...	...	77
Licensed Premises (including Hotels)					...	...	109
Unlicensed Hotels and Boarding Houses					...	...	573

- (ii) *The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*
 (a) *Food Premises registered under Section 14, Food & Drugs Act.*

224 Ice-cream premises are registered in connexion with the following types of business:—

						<i>Wrapped</i>	<i>Bulk</i>
Grocers ...	...	...	...	...	...	47	—
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	8	—
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	52	2
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	8	—
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	12	3
Cafés ...	...	...	...	...	...	13	32
Restaurants and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	7	11
Ice Cream Kiosks	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Booksellers	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1
Amusement Places	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Factory only	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Store only	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
						<hr/> 169	<hr/> 55

69 Preserved Food premises are registered in connexion with the following types of business:—

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	57
Cooked Meat Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Preserved Food Factory	...	...	...	...	...	1

(b) *Premises and Persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

Dairies and Distributors	...	...	...	...	14
Distributors only	...	...	...	...	47

(iii) *The number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary:—*

Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	125
Cooked Meat Premises	...	...	...	...	43
Other Preserved Food (Butchers)	...	...	...	...	788
Dairies and Distributors	...	...	...	...	194

Other food premises to which registration does not at present apply, were also inspected:—

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	246
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	257
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	98
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	29
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	79
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	89
Cafés, Restaurants and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	214
Hotels and Boarding Houses	...	...	...	...	...	125
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	29

(iv) *Any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or of lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.*

The measures to which reference has been made in previous reports have been continued, including special talks with films to catering organisations; and the Hotels' Association has given active assistance in these arrangements. But there seems little doubt that the most effective way of improving and maintaining standards of hygiene is the regular inspection by your Sanitary Inspectors, in practical advice and informal discussion with both Management and Staff.

While the new Regulations will assist in ensuring that the necessary facilities are installed in places where food is prepared, it still remains true that ultimately safety depends on the carefulness of the individual food-handler to make use of these facilities, and it

will take much time and patient unspectacular work year after year to inculcate clean habits in every person connected with the food trade. Even more difficult is the struggle to make sure that the highest standards are maintained during the busy summer season, when even the best intentions tend unconsciously to lapse and the frailty of human nature makes it easy to err.

The necessary measures and technique are not difficult to learn; indeed, they are quite simple. But there is such a tendency now-a-days, with ever-increasing meetings, conferences, talks and discussions, to take it for granted that as long as these are held, the problem is solved; whereas they avail very little, unless they are followed by the much greater achievement of each individual worker actually doing his duty properly and well at all times.

(v) *The method and disposal of condemned food.*

Condemned meat from the Abattoir is disposed of to a Contractor who has given a written undertaking that it will all be processed by heat (by a method to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) before the products are used for fertilisers and for poultry meal.

Meat from shops is dealt with in the same way.

Other foods condemned are destroyed in the Refuse Destructor, the condemnation notes being checked there with the articles received. In exceptional circumstances, articles such as potatoes, when suitable, are sent for pig food after processing.

(vi) *Where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.*

(a) *Chinese Egg Albumen.*

In November, advice was received from the Ministry of Health that a number of samples of this commodity had been found to be unsatisfactory bacteriologically. Investigations have shown that a negative bacteriological test on limited samples for the presence of salmonellae is not conclusive evidence that the bulk is fit for food unless this use is restricted to certain processes ensuring sterilisation.

The Bakery Allied Traders' Association co-operated in issuing statements in the trade journals; these gave details about the products for which the commodity can be used and those for which it must not be used, and emphasis was also laid on the general precautions to be taken in sterilising all utensils and on the importance of operatives thoroughly washing their hands and arms before handling other foodstuffs.

Your Sanitary Inspectors visited all bakeries to ensure that the management was conversant with, and carrying out, the necessary measures recommended; and at the same time 4 samples of egg albumen, 2 of frozen tinned egg and 1 of dried egg were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results showed that no organisms of any pathogenic significance were isolated from any of the samples.

(b) *Frozen Mutton.*

A consignment of 3,899 lbs. of frozen mutton was found badly affected with black and green mould to such an extent that 1,761 lbs. were condemned, being quite unfit for food. A complete examination of the whole consignment was made to ensure accuracy, so that as much meat as possible was saved for human use. The consignment had been transferred from a distance to a cold store in the Borough, and the inspection took place before any of the carcasses were released.

(c) *Vegetables and Fruit.*

A lorry containing about 9 tons of vegetables and fruit caught fire, and as a result the whole load was so badly affected by fire, fire-extinguisher fluid, and dirt, that all the foodstuffs were unfit and were condemned.

(f) *Food Poisoning Outbreaks.*

Details of any outbreaks are requested in the following tabular form:

<i>Total Number of Outbreaks</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Organisms or Other Agents responsible with Number of Outbreaks of Each</i>	<i>Foods involved with Number of Outbreaks of Each</i>
One	24	—	Toxin from coagulase positive <i>Staphylococcus Aureus</i> . Phage Type 42E.	Fish-cakes

FOOD POISONING.

The outbreak of food poisoning occurred during August in one of the establishments in the Borough; the estimated number of consumers at risk was 40, of whom 24 were affected. The food responsible for the outbreak was fish-cakes, and the average interval from eating the food to the onset of illness was four hours, which pointed to a toxin as the probable cause; the clinical features were vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain accompanied by pyrexia in 8 cases, and the symptoms were described as very severe in 3 cases, severe in 16, and slight in 5. The average duration of illness was two days.

The fish-cakes were prepared during the previous evening and allowed to stand overnight in a cold oven, being subsequently warmed up for breakfast; and they were prepared by one member of the kitchen staff. The results of laboratory investigation showed that coagulase-positive staphylococcus aureus, phage type 42E, was isolated from 3 vomits and 2 faeces sent for examination from the cases; the same organism was also isolated (55 millions per gram) from the suspected food, and it was present in large number in the nose of the cook who prepared the fish-cakes. It was not isolated from other members of the kitchen staff.

It was therefore concluded that the staphylococcus from the nose of the cook was the probable cause of infection; the slow cooling of the fish cakes allowed the growth of organisms and production of toxin between the time of preparation and the time of consumption next day, while the subsequent reheating did not destroy the toxin.

SECTION F

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

1. *Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).*

The incidence of infectious disease for the year is given in the subjoined table, which also includes the number of cases admitted to hospital and the number of deaths:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	18	9	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	883	18	—
Whooping Cough	34	4	—
Enteric Fevers	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Pneumonia	14	3	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :—			
Paralytic	5	5	—
Non-paralytic	2	2	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	24	—	—
Dysentery	15	8	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	1	1	—
Typhus Fever (contracted abroad)	—	—	—

<i>Disease</i>	Under 1 Year	1-2 Years	3-4 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years	15-24 Years	25 Years & over	Ages unknown	Total Cases Notified
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	4	4	8	1	—	1	—	18
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	21	150	224	472	9	5	2	—	883
Whooping Cough	1	7	11	12	—	2	1	—	34
Enteric Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	2	—	—	12	—	14
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis:									
Paralytic	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	5
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	5	19	—	24
Dysentery	—	1	3	4	1	2	4	—	15
Malaria									
(contracting abroad)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Typhus Fever									
(contracting abroad)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	22	162	242	502	12	17	42	—	999

Scarlet Fever.

The incidence was again very low, only 18 cases being notified, and the type remained mild clinically. The notification rate was 0.36 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 0.73 for England and Wales.

Whooping Cough.

After the epidemic of 1953-54, the number of cases dropped considerably, and there were only 34 notifications; complicated cases were not numerous and there was no death. The notification rate was 0.67 per 1,000 population compared with 1.78 for England and Wales.

Measles.

Measles was epidemic during the year; the peak of the epidemic in England and Wales fell about the 15th week of the year, with a secondary peak about the 22nd week; by the 38th week the outbreak was over. In Torquay the epidemic did not start until June, about the 24th week when there was a small initial wave until the 34th week; during the next 8 weeks few cases were reported, but the

main wave came from the middle of October to the middle of December, after which the outbreak exhausted itself. The total number of notifications was 883 compared with 1,012 in 1951 and 534 in 1953. The notification rate was 17.56 per 1,000 population, compared with a rate of 17.86 for England and Wales.

The type remained much milder than a generation ago—and there were few complicated cases; no death was recorded.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

During the year the incidence throughout England and Wales was much higher than in the previous two or three years, the notifications being the highest since 1950; a feature was the high proportion of non-paralytic cases. In the Borough there were 7 cases, 4 being non-residents, although it is possible that one of the visitors contracted the disease here; the resident cases comprised two mild paralytic cases with complete recovery and one non-paralytic; and of the visitors there were three paralytic cases, two being severe, and there was one non-paralytic case.

Influenza.

The outbreak of influenza, which started at the end of 1954 and to which reference was made in the report for that year, continued into the first few weeks of 1955; the illness was mild clinically and very few complications were reported, only 7 deaths being registered as due to influenza during the first quarter of the year (all in the older age-groups).

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Circular 29/54 was received from the Ministry of Health with a copy of the Puerperal Pyrexia (Amendment) Regulations, 1954, which came into force on 1st March, 1955. The Regulations prescribe a new form of certificate for the notification of such cases, requiring the cause of the disease, if known, to be stated.

In accordance with Regulation 3, a copy of the Circular was sent to all Medical Practitioners in the Borough.

Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to record that 1955 was the ninth successive year during which no case of diphtheria was notified.

2. *Tuberculosis.*

Particulars of any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

No action was required.

New cases and mortality during 1955.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1955 are given in the following table:

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	F'male	Male	F'male	Male	F'male	Male	F'male
Under 5 years ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	2	5	2	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	7	8	—	2	1	3	—	—
45 to 64 years ...	2	1	—	—	4	2	—	—
65 and over ...	2	3	—	1	3	1	—	1
TOTALS ...	15	17	2	5	8	6	—	1

SECTION G

BOROUGH OF TORQUAY**PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1955**

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1955, detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Form Port 20 and Circular 16/55.

Following the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, the form and scope of the report were revised, and the full details are required every five years: this is necessary for the year under review. The intermediate years are covered by a shorter report in which certain sections (marked with an asterisk) need not be reported unless there is any change.

SECTION 1—STAFF*TABLE A**

<i>Name of Officer</i>	<i>Nature of Appointment</i>	<i>Date of Appointment</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>	<i>Any other appointments held</i>
J. V. A. SIMPSON	Medical Officer of Health.	1936	M.D. (LOND.), B.S. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H. (CAMB.)	Medical Officer, Isolation Hospital.
G. J. LOVELESS	Chief Sanitary Inspector and Port Sanitary Inspector.	1946	C.R.S.I., CERT. INSP. MEAT AND FOOD R.S.I.	
A. THOMPSON	District Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Port Sanitary Inspector.	1925	C.R.S.I.	

CLERKS :—S. E. R. AUTHERS, Chief Clerk.
E. C. DOBLE.

(The work in connexion with Port Health Administration is carried out by the above members of the Public Health Staff, in the course of the general Public Health Administration of the Borough.)

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health :

St. Marychurch Town Hall,
Torquay.

Tel. No. : Torquay 88204

SECTION II—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING
THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	15	1,611	2	15	—
Coastwise ...	35	15,425	3	35	—
TOTAL ...	50	17,036	5	50	—

In addition, local fishing vessels made 997 visits (total tonnage 4582) to the fish quay and frequent inspections of these have been made.

SECTION III—CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND
TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	{	Number of passengers INWARDS	} This is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.
		Number of passengers OUTWARDS	
<hr/>			
CARGO TRAFFIC	...	{	Principal IMPORTS. Cement, (13 cargoes), Coal (1 cargo) Bog Ore (1 cargo) Timber, (8 cargoes) Principal EXPORTS. Spent Oxide. (1 cargo)
<hr/>			
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrived in 1955 :			
London, Guernsey, Cherbourg, Le Havre. Weymouth, and general coastwise.			
FOREIGN PORTS were : Ljusne, Rafso, Sundsvall, Gefle, Ludvika, Delfzyl, Mantyluoto, Kuni, Sornas, Gibraltar.			

SECTION IV—INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic in the area.

*SECTION V—WATER SUPPLY

(1) *Source of supply for (a) the District, and (b) Shipping.*

(a) The water supply of the District is from an extensive upland surface gathering ground on Dartmoor of 4,814 acres; there are four storage reservoirs with a capacity of 848 million gallons, which is equivalent to approximately seven months supply.

After storage the water is filtered, lime is added to raise the pH value, and the supply is chlorinated. There are six service reservoirs in the town, from which every house is supplied.

(b) The port is supplied by standpipes from the main town supply.

(2) *Reports of tests for contamination.*

Samples are taken every week from the service reservoirs in the Town, and additional samples are taken from taps in various places, and from the standpipes at the harbour.

During 1955, the number of samples taken was 82, of which 78 were satisfactory. Of these, four samples were taken at the harbour, all of which were satisfactory, i.e. number of organisms in 100 ml.=nil.

(3) *Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.*

These are flushed prior to use and inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) *Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.*

There are no water boats.

SECTION VI—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

(1) *List of infected areas. (Regulation 6.)*

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure in supplying it to those persons.

The list of infected ports and areas supplied from the Ministry of Health each week is noted at the Public Health Department and is then taken by the District Sanitary Inspector to the Customs Officer who retains it for the week; when each new list is taken, the list for the previous week is returned to the Health Department.

(2) *Radio Messages.*

(a) *Arrangement for sending permission by radio, for ships to enter the District. (Regulation 13.)*

Arrangements are made with the Post Office for the transmission of Wireless messages, if required.

(b) *Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships, and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).*

These messages are received through the Post Office, and would in the first instance be to the Local Shipping Agents, thence to the Customs Officer and subsequently to the Medical Officer of Health.

(3) *Notification otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)). Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.*

Messages are received or sent by the Customs Officer communicating with the Coast Guard Station at Berry Head for signals either of flags or flash lamps in morse; Berry Head commands the whole Bay for shipping.

Detailed notices on the Maritime Declaration of Health instruct Masters of vessels to fly the International signals as given in the Regulations. Any notifications to the Customs Officer are communicated at once to the Medical Officer of Health.

(4) *Moorings Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30)—Situation of Stations, and any other standing directions issued under these Regulations.*

A quarantine buoy is placed 1,000 yards South-West out to sea from the end of Haldon Pier; the buoy is painted yellow and black, and is lighted at night.

No standing directions have been issued.

(5) *Arrangements for:—*

(a) *Hospital accommodation for infectious cases (other than Smallpox—See Section VII).*

Cases of infectious disease, other than Smallpox, are admitted to the Torquay Isolation Hospital, which is the Hospital for the Torquay District Management Committee area.

(b) *Surveillance and follow-up of contacts.*

Surveillance and following-up of contacts are undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors.

(c) *Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other Articles.*

There is a Cleansing Station for persons at St. Marychurch Town Hall. Disinfection of any Quarters aboard ship is dealt with by the Sanitary Inspectors, and the disinfection of clothing and other articles takes place at the Isolation Hospital, where there is a modern Thresh Disinfector, together with facilities for articles which cannot be put through steam under pressure.

SECTION VII—SMALLPOX

- (1) *Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent from the District.*

Cases are sent to Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital near Exeter, and the Medical Officer in charge is the Resident Physician of Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, Dr. R. P. Boyd.

- (2) *Arrangement for transport of such cases to that Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.*

The ambulance is arranged by telephone message to the Resident Physician at Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, who states that the vehicle is supplied by the Exeter City Health Department and is staffed by the Hospital, and that all members of the crew are fully vaccinated.

- (3) *Names of Smallpox Consultants available.*

The Consultants available are :—

Dr. C. Seward of Exeter,

Dr. W. J. Laird of Exeter.

- (4) *Facilities for Laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox.*

Specimens for Laboratory diagnosis are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory (Virus Reference), Colindale, Hendon, N.W.4.

*SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seaman under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among seamen are available at the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, either daily or at the specified clinics for men on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m.

In-patient treatment is given at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter.

Leaflets giving details of these facilities are available at the Harbour.

SECTION IX—CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D

<i>Category</i>	<i>Disease</i>	<i>No. of cases during the year</i>		<i>No. of ships concerned</i>
		<i>Passengers</i>	<i>Crew</i>	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports ...	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been dis- posed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ports	—	—	—	—

A short account should be given of the measures taken on the arrival by ship of (a) any case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus, or relapsing fever included in Table D; (b) any suspected case of any such disease.

NIL.

SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

NIL.

SECTION XI—MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

NIL.

SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

(1) *Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.*

Enquiries are made by the Sanitary Inspector from all Masters of vessels using the Port concerning the presence of rats, and, if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats. Owing to the small size of the vessels, and of the nature of the cargo carried, it is uncommon to find any evidence of rat infestation.

Systematic inspections are made of the ships and quays, with special reference to the presence of rat runs, excreta, damage to foodstuffs, etc.

(2) *Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.*

The examinations, if required at any time, will be made through the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

None has so far been required.

(3) *Arrangements in the District for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.*

Any ship requiring deratting is referred to Plymouth for the necessary measures, and the next port of call of the vessel is notified.

(4) *Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.*

This has not been required owing to the limited nature of shipping entering the port.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

N I L .

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

This table does not apply as Torquay is not an approved port under Article 52 of the International Sanitary Regulations.

SECTION XIII—INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G
Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices served		Result of serving notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
General ...	49	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	49	—	—	—

*SECTION XIV—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948

Information respecting any Shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution. A report of any action taken, which should state whether any prohibited area has been prescribed, should be included.

There are no Shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

*SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

(Applicable only to ports approved for the landing of aliens)

This Section does not apply.

*SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS

Arrangement for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Torquay is not a port for passenger traffic, and it is only in very exceptional circumstances that this would arise.

In the case of infectious disease other than smallpox, plague, or typhus fever, the bodies would be removed with the usual precautions to the Borough Mortuary at St. Marychurch Town Hall, pending interment or cremation in the normal way.

For the more serious diseases, the arrangements for confining, etc., would be carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department, who are vaccinated annually, and have protective clothing (obtained during the war) for insect-borne diseases.

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